

## UPSC Civil Services Examination

### UPSC Notes [GS-I]

#### **Topic: Regulating Act 1773 - Background, Provisions & Drawbacks** **[NCERT Notes: Modern Indian History for UPSC]**

#### **What is the Regulating Act of 1773?**

The regulating Act of 1773 was passed by the British Parliament to control the territories of the East India Company majorly in Bengal. This act was passed due to the misgovernment by the British East India government that introduced a situation of bankruptcy and the government had to interfere with the affairs of the Company.

This is an important part of NCERT notes for the UPSC [Civil Services Exam](#). These notes will also be useful for other competitive exams like banking PO, SSC, state civil services exams and so on. This article talks about The Regulating Act of 1773.

The Regulating Act was passed in the British Parliament in June 1773. It was the first parliamentary ratification and authorization defining the powers and authority of the East India Company with respect to its Indian possessions.

#### **Background/Reasons for passing the Act**

- The East India Company was in severe financial crisis and had asked a loan of 1 million pounds from the British government in 1772.
- Allegations of corruption and nepotism were rampant against company officials.
- There was a terrible famine in Bengal where a huge population perished.
- The Dual form of administration instituted by [Robert Clive](#) was complex and drawing a lot of complaints. According to this system, the company had Diwani rights (obtained after the [Battle of Buxar](#)) in Bengal and the Nawab had Nizamat rights (judicial and policing rights) as secured from the Mughal Emperor. In reality, both powers were vested with the company. The farmers and the general population suffered as their improvement was neglected and the company was only concerned with maximising revenue.
- Lawlessness increased in Bengal.
- The defeat of the company against Mysore's Hyder Ali in 1769.

#### **Provisions of the Regulating Act**

- This act permitted the company to retain its territorial possessions in India but sought to regulate the activities and functioning of the company. It did not take over power completely, hence called 'regulating'.
- The act provided for the appointment of a Governor-General along with four Councillors in the Presidency of Fort William (Calcutta), jointly called the Governor-General in Council.

- As per this, Warren Hastings was appointed as the Governor-General of the Presidency of Fort William.
- The Governors in Councils at Madras and Bombay were brought under the control of Bengal, especially in matters of foreign policy. Now, they could not wage war against Indian states without Bengal's approval.
- The company directors were elected for a period of five years and one-fourth of them were to retire every year. Also, they could not be re-elected.
- The company directors were directed to make public all correspondence on revenue, civil and military matters with Indian authorities before the British authorities.
- A Supreme Court of Judicature was established at Calcutta with Sir Elijah Impey as the first Chief Justice. Judges were to come from England. It had civil and criminal jurisdiction over the British subjects and not Indian natives.

## Defects of Regulating Act 1773

The major drawbacks of The Regulating Act of 1773 are stated below:

- The Governor-General had no veto power.
- It did not address the concerns of the Indian population who were paying revenue to the company.
- It did not stop corruption among the company officials.
- The Supreme Court's powers were not well-defined.
- The parliamentary control that was sought in the activities of the company proved to be ineffective as there was no mechanism to study the reports sent by the Governor-General in Council.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination

### UPSC Notes [GS-I]

#### Topic: The Charter Act of 1793 [Modern Indian History for UPSC]

NCERT notes on important topics for the UPSC [Civil Services Exam](#). These notes will also be useful for other competitive exams like Bank PO, SSC, state civil services exams and so on. This article talks about the Charter Act of 1793.

The Charter Act of 1793, also known as the East India Company Act 1793 was passed in the British Parliament in which the company charter was renewed.

#### Provisions of the Charter Act 1793

- This Act continued the company's rule over the British territories in India.
- It continued the company's trade monopoly in India for another 20 years.
- The Act established that "acquisition of sovereignty by the subjects of the Crown is on behalf of the Crown and not in its own right," which clearly stated that the company's political functions were on behalf of the British government.
- The company's dividends were allowed to be raised to 10%.
- The Governor-General was given more powers. He could override his council's decision under certain circumstances.
- He was also given authority over the governors of Madras and Bombay.
- When the Governor-General was present in Madras or Bombay, he would supersede in authority over the governors of Madras and Bombay.
- In the Governor-General's absence from Bengal, he could appoint a Vice President from among the civilian members of his Council.
- The composition of the Board of Control changed. It was to have a President and two junior members, who were not necessarily members of the Privy Council.
- The salaries of the staff and the Board of Control were also now charged to the company.
- After all expenses, the company had to pay the British government Rs.5 Lakhs from the Indian revenue annually.
- Senior company officials were barred from leaving India without permission. If they did so, it would be considered as a resignation.
- The company was granted the authority to grant licenses to individuals and company employees to carry on trade in India. This was known as 'privilege' or 'country trade'. This led to shipments of opium to China.
- This Act separated the revenue administration and the judiciary functions of the company leading to the disappearance of Maal Adalats (revenue courts).

## UPSC Civil Services Examination

### UPSC Notes [GS-I]

#### Topic: The Charter Act of 1813 - Features & Significance [Modern Indian History Notes UPSC]

NCERT notes on important topics for the UPSC Civil Services Exam. These notes will also be useful for competitive exams like [IAS Exam](#), banking PO, SSC, state civil services exams and so on. This article talks about the Charter Act of 1813.

The Charter Act of 1813 passed by the British Parliament renewed the East India Company's charter for another 20 years. This is also called the East India Company Act, 1813. This act is important in that it defined for the first time the constitutional position of British Indian territories.

To know more about the [Governor Generals of Bengal and India](#), visit the linked article.

#### Overview of the Charter Act of 1813

A cursory detail of the act is given in the table below:

Charter Act of 1813	
<b>Long Title</b>	An Act for continuing in the East India Company, for a further Term, the Possession of the British Territories in India, together with certain exclusive Privileges; for establishing further Regulations for the Government of the said Territories, and the better Administration of Justice within the same; and for regulating the Trade to and from the Places within the Limits of the said Company's Charter
<b>Territorial Extent</b>	Territories under direct British control
<b>Enacted by</b>	Parliament of United Kingdom
<b>Royal Assent</b>	21 July 1813
<b>Status</b>	Replaced by Government of India Act, 1915

## Background

- Due to Napoleon Bonaparte's Continental System in Europe (which prohibited the import of British goods into French allies in Europe), British traders and merchants suffered.
- So they demanded they be given a share in the British trade in Asia and dissolve the monopoly of the East India Company.
- The company objected to this.
- Finally, British merchants were allowed to trade in India under a strict licensing system under the Charter Act of 1813.
- But in trade with China and the tea trade, the company still retained its monopoly.

To know more about the [legislation passed in British India](#), click on the linked article.

## Provisions of the Charter Act of 1813

- This Act asserted the Crown's sovereignty over British possessions in India.
- Company's rule and trade monopoly in India was extended to another 20 years. Monopoly was ended except for the trade in tea and with China.
- It empowered the local governments to tax people subject to the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.
- The company's dividend was fixed at 10.5%.
- The Act gave more powers for the courts in India over European British subjects.
- Another important feature of this act was to grant permission to the missionaries to come to India and engage in religious proselytization. The missionaries were successful in getting the appointment of a Bishop for British India with his headquarters at Calcutta in the provisions of the Act.
- The act provided for a financial grant towards the revival of Indian literature and the promotion of science.
- The company was also to take up a greater role in the education of the Indians under them. It was to set aside Rs.1 Lakh for this purpose.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination

### UPSC Notes [GS-I]

#### Topic: The Charter Act of 1833 - Features & Significance [Modern Indian History for UPSC]

NCERT notes on important topics for the UPSC [Civil Services Exam](#). These notes will also be useful for other competitive exams like banking PO, SSC, state civil services exams and so on. This article talks about the Charter Act of 1833.

The Charter Act of 1833 was passed in the British Parliament which renewed the East India Company's charter for another 20 years. This was also called the Government of India Act 1833 or the Saint Helena Act 1833.

#### Features of the Charter Act of 1833

- The company's commercial activities were closed down. It was made into an administrative body for British Indian possessions.
- The company's trade links with China were also closed down.
- This act permitted the English to settle freely in India.
- This act legalised the British colonisation of the country.
- The company still possessed the Indian territories but it was held 'in trust for his majesty'.

#### Provisions of the Charter Act of 1833

##### India became a British colony

- The Governor-General of Bengal was re-designated as the [Governor-General of India](#). This made Lord William Bentinck the first Governor-General of India.
- Thus, the country's administration was unified under one control.
- The Governors of Bombay and Madras lost their legislative powers.
- The Governor-General had legislative powers over entire British India.
- The Governor-General in council had the authority to amend, repeal or alter any law pertaining to all people and places in British Indian territories whether British, foreign or Indian native.
- The civil and military affairs of the company were controlled by the Governor-General in council.
- The Governor-General's council was to have four members. The fourth member had limited powers only.
- For the first time, the Governor-General's government was called Government of India and the council was called India Council.

##### Indian Law Commission

- The act mandated that any law made in India was to be put before the British Parliament and was to be called 'Act'.
- As per the act, an [Indian Law Commission](#) was established.
- The first Law Commission had Lord Macaulay as its chairman.
- It sought to codify all Indian law.

### **Split in Bengal Presidency**

- The act provided for the Presidency of Bengal to be divided into the Presidencies of Agra and Fort William.
- But this never came into effect.

### **Indians in Government service**

- This was the first act that gave permission for Indians to have a share in the country's administration.
- It stated that merit should be the basis of employment to government service and not birth, colour, religion or race.

### **Slavery**

- The act provided for the mitigation of slavery existing in India at that time.
- The British Parliament abolished slavery in Britain and all its possessions in 1833.

### **Tilt towards Christianity**

- Since the number of British residents in the country was increasing, the act allowed for having three Bishops in India.
- It also sought to regulate the establishment of Christian institutions in India.

## **Significance of the Charter Act of 1833**

- It was the first step in the centralisation of India's administration.
- The ending of the East India Company's commercial activities and making it into the British Crown's trustee in administering India.
- Codification of laws under Macaulay.
- Provision for Indians in government service.
- Separation of the executive and the legislative functions of the council.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination

### UPSC Notes [GS-I]

#### Topic: NCERT Notes: The Charter Act of 1853 - Features & Significance [Modern Indian History for UPSC]

NCERT notes on important topics for the UPSC Civil Services Exam. These notes will also be useful for other competitive exams like banking PO, SSC, state [civil services exams](#) and so on. This article talks about the 1853 Charter Act.

The Charter Act 1853 was passed in the British Parliament to renew the East India Company's charter. Unlike the previous charter acts of 1793, 1813 and 1833 which renewed the charter for 20 years; this act did not mention the time period for which the company charter was being renewed. This Act was passed when Lord Dalhousie was the Governor-General of India.

Read the Charter Acts of 1793, 1813 and 1833 in the linked articles given below:

1. [Charter Act of 1793](#)
2. [Charter Act of 1813](#)
3. [Charter Act of 1833](#)

#### Provisions of the Charter Act 1853

- **Governor-General's office**
  1. The Law member (fourth member) became a full member with the right to vote.
  2. The Legislative Council which had six members now had 12 members.
  3. The 12 members were: 1 Governor-General, 1 Commander-in-Chief, 4 members of the Governor-General's Council, 1 Chief Justice of the Supreme Court at Calcutta, 1 regular judge of the Supreme Court at Calcutta, and 4 representative members drawn from among the company's servants with at least 10 years tenure, appointed by the local governments of Bengal, Bombay, Madras and North Western Provinces.
  4. The Governor-General could nominate a vice president to the council.
  5. The Governor-General's assent was required for all legislative proposals.
- The Court of Directors could create a **new presidency or province**. This was because of the difficulties that were faced in administering the increasingly large Indian territories of Britain.
  1. Since 1833 and 1853, two new provinces of Sind and Punjab were added.
  2. It could also appoint a Lieutenant Governor for these provinces. In 1859, a Lt. Governor was appointed for Punjab.
  3. This Act also led to the creation of Assam, Burma and the Central Provinces.
- The Act provided for the appointment of a **separate governor for the Bengal Presidency**. It maintained that the governor of Bengal should be different from the Governor-General who was to head administration of the whole of India.



- The number of **Board of Directors** was reduced from 24 to 18 out of which 6 people were to be nominated by the British Crown.
- **Indian Civil Services**
  1. Macaulay Committee of 1854 gave India her first civil services.
  2. This act removed the right of patronage to appointments in civil service held by the Court of Directors.
  3. Appointment was to be done only by open competition based on merit and was open to all.
  4. The report recommended that only the 'fittest' be selected to the ICS.

### Features of the Charter Act 1853

- For the first time, the legislative and executive functions of the Governor-General's council were separated.
- This act served as the foundation of the modern parliamentary form of government. The legislative wing of the Governor-General's Council acted as a parliament on the model of the British Parliament.
- It extended the company's rule for an indefinite period unlike the previous charter acts. Thus, it could be taken over by the British government any time.
- Company's influence was further reduced by this act. The Board of Directors now had 6 members who were Crown-nominated.
- It gave birth to the Indian civil services and was open to all including Indians. This ended the system of appointments by recommendation and started a system of open and fair competition.
- For the first time, local representation was introduced into the legislative council in the form of four members from the local governments of Bengal, Bombay, Madras and North Western Provinces.



## Revolt of 1857

The revolt of 1857 was the conscious beginning of the Independence struggle against the colonial tyranny of the British. There are various names for the revolt of 1857 - India's First War of Independence, Sepoy Mutiny, etc.

The revolt began on May 10, 1857, at Meerut as a sepoy mutiny. It was initiated by sepoys in the Bengal Presidency against the British officers.

This war of Independence marked the end of rule by the British East India company. Post this, India was directly ruled by the British government through representatives known as Governor-General.

This article provides all relevant information related to the Revolt of 1857 and its causes and effects. This is an important topic for the Civil Services Exam and other government exams.

### Immediate Reason of Revolt of 1857

The immediate factor was the introduction of the 'Enfield' rifle. The cartridge had to be bitten off before loading it into the gun. Indian sepoys believed that the cartridge was greased with either pig fat or made from cow fat. This was against the Hindu and Muslim sentiments. Thus they were reluctant to use the 'Enfield' rifle. This was a flashpoint to enrage the soldiers against the British. This was believed to be the immediate factor for the revolt of 1857.

### Causes of Revolt of 1857

The revolt of 1857 was initiated due to various factors which are stated below:

- **Religious & Social Causes** - Racism or racial discrimination was believed to be a major reason for the revolt of 1857 wherein Indians were exploited and were kept away from mixing with Europeans. The whites also started interfering in the religious and cultural affairs of Indians and tortured them as well.
- **Political Causes** - The British expansion had led to the propagation of unjust policies that led to the loss of power of the Nawabs and Zamindars residing at various places of India. The introduction of unfair policies like the policy of Trade and Commerce, the policy of indirect subordination (subsidiary alliance), the policy of war and annexation, the policy of direct subordination (doctrine of lapse), the policy of misgovernance (through which Awadh was annexed) greatly hampered the interests of the rulers of the native states, and they one by one became victims of British expansionism. Therefore, those rulers, who lost their states to the British, were naturally against the British and took sides against them during the revolt.
- **Economic Factors** - There were various reforms in the taxation and revenue system that affected the peasants' heavily. British Government had imposed and introduced various administrative policies to expand their territory.

To learn more about such important land revenue systems, check the linked article.

These three settlements were highly exploitative, and in particular, the Permanent settlement had created a devastating impact. Thus the peasants were greatly encouraged to overthrow the British Government from India and led to their active participation in the revolt of 1857.

**Military Factors** - The Indian soldiers faced a lot of discrimination from the British officials with respect to their salaries, pensions, promotions. Indians were subjugated in the military while their European counterparts faced no such discrimination. This led to discontent and was a major military factor that resulted in the revolt of 1857.

### **Vellore Mutiny**

The Vellore Mutiny took place even before the revolt of 1857 (50 years before). It erupted on 10th July 1806 in Vellore, present-day Tamil Nadu, and lasted only for a day, but it was brutal and it was the first major mutiny by the Indian sepoys in the East India Company.

### **Impact of Revolt of 1857**

The revolt of 1857 shook the foundation of British East India Company and disclosed their inefficiency in handling the Indian administration. The major impact was the introduction of Government of India act which abolished the rule of British East India Company and marked the beginning of British raj that bestowed powers in the hands of the British government to rule India directly through representatives.

### **Causes of Failure of the revolt of 1857**

The revolt was eventually not successful in ousting the British from the country because of several factors.

1. The sepoys lacked one clear leader; there were several. They also did not have a coherent plan by which the foreigners would be routed.
2. Indian rulers who aided the revolt did not envision any plan for the country after the British were defeated.
3. Majorly northern India was affected by this revolt. The three presidencies of Bengal, Bombay and Madras remained mostly unaffected.

### **List of Important Leaders associated with the revolt of 1857**

<b>Place</b>	<b>Revolt of 1857 -Important Leaders</b>
Delhi	Bahadur Shah II, General Bakht Khan
Lucknow	Begum Hazrat Mahal, Birjis Qadir, Ahmadullah
Kanpur	Nana Sahib, Rao Sahib, Tantia Tope, Azimullah Khan

Jhansi	Rani Laxmibai
Bihar	Kunwar Singh, Amar Singh
Rajasthan	Jaidayal Singh and Hardayal Singh
Farrukhabad	Tufzal Hasan Khan
Assam	Kandapareshwar Singh, Maniram Dutta Baruah
Orissa	Surendra Shahi, Ujjwal Shahi

### Frequently Asked Questions - Revolt of 1857

#### **Who coined the name Sepoy Mutiny?**

In India, the term First War of Independence was first popularized by Vinayak Damodar Savarkar in his 1909 book The History of the War of Indian Independence.

#### **What was the immediate reason for the revolt of 1857?**

The immediate factor was the introduction of the 'Enfield' rifle. It was said that the cartridge of this rifle was wrapped in the fat of cow and pig. The cartridge had to be bitten off before loading it into the gun. Thus the Hindu and Muslim soldiers were reluctant to use the 'Enfield' rifle.

#### **What are the causes of revolt 1857?**

There are many reasons that led to the revolt of 1857. Major reasons for the revolt can be broadly classified into - Political, Social, Economic, Religious, Military, etc. The causes have been discussed in this article under respective sections.



## Revolt of 1857

The Indian Mutiny of 1857-59 was a widespread but unsuccessful rebellion against the rule of British East India Company in India which functioned as a sovereign power on behalf of the British crown.

### The Revolt

- It was the first expression of organised resistance against the British East India Company
- It began as a revolt of the sepoys of the British East India Company's army but eventually secured the participation of the masses.
- The revolt is known by several names: **the Sepoy Mutiny** (by the British Historians), **the Indian Mutiny, the Great Rebellion** (by the Indian Historians), **the Revolt of 1857, the Indian Insurrection**, and **the First War of Independence** (by Vinayak Damodar Savarkar).

### Causes of The Revolt

#### Political Cause

- **British policy of expansion:** The political causes of the revolt were the British policy of expansion through the **Doctrine of Lapse** and direct annexation.
- A large number of Indian rulers and chiefs were dislodged, thus arousing fear in the minds of other ruling families who apprehended a similar fate.
  - **Rani Lakshmi Bai's** adopted son was not permitted to sit on the throne of Jhansi.
  - Satara, Nagpur and Jhansi were annexed under the **Doctrine of Lapse**.
  - Jaitpur, Sambalpur and Udaipur were also annexed.
  - The annexation of Awadh by Lord Dalhousie on the pretext of maladministration left thousands of nobles, officials, retainers and soldiers jobless. This measure converted Awadh, a loyal state, into a hotbed of discontent and intrigue.

#### Doctrine of lapse:

- The notable British technique called the **Doctrine of Lapse** was first perpetrated by **Lord Dalhousie** in the late 1840s.
- It involved the British prohibiting a Hindu ruler without a natural heir from adopting a successor and, after the ruler died or abdicated, annexing his land.
- To those problems added the growing discontent of the Brahmans, many of whom had been dispossessed of their revenues or had lost lucrative positions.

### Social and Religious Cause

- The rapidly **spreading Western Civilisation** in India was alarming concerns all over the country.
  - An act in 1850 changed the Hindu law of inheritance enabling a Hindu who had converted into Christianity to inherit his ancestral properties.

- The people were convinced that the Government was planning to **convert Indians to Christianity**.
- The **abolition of practices like sati and female infanticide**, and the legislation legalizing widow remarriage, were believed as threats to the established social structure.
- Introducing **western methods of education** was directly challenging the orthodoxy for Hindus as well as Muslims
- Even the introduction of the railways and telegraph was viewed with suspicion.

### Economic Cause

- In rural areas, peasants and zamindars were infuriated by the **heavy taxes on land** and the **stringent methods of revenue collection** followed by the Company.
  - Many among these groups were unable to meet the heavy revenue demands and repay their loans to money lenders, eventually losing the lands that they had held for generations.
- Large numbers of **sepoys belonged to the peasantry class** and had family ties in villages, so the grievances of the peasants also affected them.
- After the Industrial Revolution in England, there was an **influx of British manufactured goods** into India, which ruined industries, particularly the textile industry of India.
  - Indian handicraft industries had to compete with cheap machine-made goods from Britain.

### Military Causes

- The Revolt of 1857 began as a **sepoy mutiny**:
  - Indian sepoy formed more than 87% of the British troops in India but were considered inferior to British soldiers.
  - An Indian sepoy was paid less than a European sepoy of the same rank.
- They were required to serve in areas far away from their homes.
  - In 1856 Lord Canning issued the General Services Enlistment Act which required that the sepoy must be ready to serve even in British land across the sea.

### Lord Canning

- Charles John Canning was the statesman and governor general of India during the Indian Mutiny of 1857.
- He became the **first viceroy of India** in 1858.
- The important events during his tenure include:
  - The Mutiny of 1857, which he was able to suppress successfully
  - Passing of Indian Councils Act, 1861 which **introduced portfolio system** in India
  - **Withdrawal of "Doctrine of Lapse"** which was one of the main reasons of mutiny of 1858
  - Introduction of Code of Criminal Procedure
  - Enactment of Indian High Courts Act
  - Indian Penal Code (1858)

### Immediate Cause

- The Revolt of 1857 eventually broke out over the **incident of greased cartridges**.
  - A rumour spread that the cartridges of the new enfield rifles were greased with the fat of cows and pigs.

- Before loading these rifles the sepoys had to bite off the paper on the cartridges.
- Both Hindu and Muslim sepoys refused to use them.
- Lord Canning tried to make amends for the error and the offending cartridges were withdrawn but the damage had already been done. There was unrest in several places.
- In March 1857, **Mangal Pandey**, a sepoy in **Barrackpore**, had refused to use the cartridge and attacked his senior officers.
  - He was hanged to death on 8<sup>th</sup> April.
  - On 9<sup>th</sup> May, 85 soldiers in Meerut refused to use the new rifle and were sentenced to ten years' imprisonment.

## Centres of The Revolt

- The revolt spread over the entire area from the neighbourhood of Patna to the borders of Rajasthan. The main centres of revolt in these regions namely Kanpur, Lucknow, Bareilly, Jhansi, Gwalior and Arrah in Bihar.
  - **Lucknow:** it was the capital of Awadh. **Begum Hazrat Mahal**, one of the begums of the ex-king of Awadh, took up the leadership of the revolt.
  - **Kanpur:** the revolt was led by **Nana Saheb**, the adopted son of Peshwa Baji Rao II.
    - He joined the revolt primarily because he was deprived of his pension by the British.
    - The victory was short-lived. Kanpur was recaptured by the British after fresh reinforcements arrived.
    - The revolt was suppressed with terrible vengeance.
    - Nana Saheb escaped but his brilliant commander **Tantia Tope** continued the struggle.
    - Tantia Tope was finally defeated, arrested and hanged.
  - **Jhansi:** the twenty-two-year-old **Rani Lakshmi Bai** led the rebels when the British refused to accept the claim of her adopted son to the throne of Jhansi.
    - She fought gallantly against the British forces but was ultimately defeated by the English.
  - **Gwalior:** After Rani Lakshmi Bai escaped, she was joined by Tantia Tope and together they marched to Gwalior and captured it.
    - Fierce fighting followed where the Rani of Jhansi fought like a tigress but died, fighting to the very end.
    - Gwalior was recaptured by the British.
  - Bihar: the revolt was led by **Kunwar Singh** who belonged to a royal house of Jagdispur, Bihar.

## Suppression and The Revolt

- The Revolt of 1857 lasted for more than a year. It was suppressed by the middle of 1858.
- On July 8, 1858, fourteen months after the outbreak at Meerut, peace was finally proclaimed by Lord Canning.

Places of Revolt	Indian Leaders	British Officials who suppressed the revolt
Delhi	Bahadur Shah II	John Nicholson
Lucknow	Begum Hazrat Mahal	Henry Lawrence
Kanpur	Nana Saheb	Sir Colin Campbell
Jhansi & Gwalior	Lakshmi Bai & Tantia Tope	General Hugh Rose
Bareilly	Khan Bahadur Khan	Sir Colin Campbell
Allahabad and Banaras	Maulvi Liyakat Ali	Colonel Ocell
Bihar	Kunwar Singh	William Taylor

## Why did the Revolt Fail?

- **Limited uprising:** although the revolt was fairly widespread, a large part of the country remained unaffected by it.
  - The revolt was mainly confined to the Doab region.
  - The large princely states, **Hyderabad, Mysore, Travancore, and Kashmir**, as well as the smaller ones of **Rajputana**, did not join the rebellion
  - The southern provinces did not take part in it.
- **No effective leadership:** the rebels lacked an effective leader. Although Nana Saheb, Tantia Tope and Rani Lakshmi Bai were brave leaders, they could not offer effective leadership to the movement as a whole.
- **Limited resources:** the rebels lacked resources in terms of men and money. The English, on the other hand, received a steady supply of men, money and arms in India.
- **No participation of the middle class:** The English educated middle class, the rich merchants, traders and zamindars of Bengal helped the British to suppress the revolt.

## Results of The Revolt

- **End of company rule:** the great uprising of 1857 was an important landmark in the history of modern India.
  - The revolt marked the end of the East India Company's rule in India.
- **Direct rule of the British Crown:** India now came under the direct rule of the British Crown.
  - This was announced by Lord Canning at a **Durbar in Allahabad** in a proclamation issued on 1 November 1858 in the name of the Queen.
  - The Indian administration was taken over by Queen Victoria, which, in effect, meant the British Parliament.
  - The India office was created to handle the governance and the administration of the country.
- **Religious tolerance:** it was promised and due attention was paid to the customs and traditions of India.
- **Administrative change:** the Governor General's office was replaced by that of the Viceroy.
  - The rights of Indian rulers were recognised.
  - The Doctrine of Lapse was abolished.
  - The right to adopt sons as legal heirs was accepted.
- **Military reorganisation:** the ratio of British officers to Indian soldiers increased but the armoury remained in the hands of the English. It was arranged to end the dominance of the Bengal army.

## Conclusion

The revolt of 1857 was an unprecedented event in the history of British rule in India. It united, though in a limited way, many sections of Indian society for a common cause. Though the revolt failed to achieve the desired goal, it sowed the seeds of Indian nationalism.

## Books written on the Revolt of 1857

- **The Indian War of Independence** by **Vinayak Damodar Savarkar**
- **Rebellion, 1857: A Symposium** by **Puran Chand Joshi**
- **The Indian Mutiny of 1857** by **George Bruce Malleson**
- **Great Mutiny** by **Christopher Hibbert**
- **Religion and Ideology of the Rebels of 1857** by **Iqbal Hussain**
- **Excavation of Truth: Unsung Heroes of 1857 War of Independence** by **Khan Mohammad Sadiq Khan**



PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/revolt-of-1857>

The main five consequences of the revolt of 1857

1)The British crown took over as the rule of East India company ended

The revolt of 1857 caused the transfer of powers from the hands of the East India Company to the crown of England. This was achieved under the better government of India act of 1858. Under this act, India came into direct control under the crown, which started acting through a state secretary. The secretary was directly responsible to the British crown. An Indian council consisting of 15 members was created, out of which at least nine should have served India for at least ten years. The state secretary presided over this council. However, the central administration continued to remain in the hands of the governor-general. The governor-general also became the viceroy to the queen of England.

2)New structure for the Indian government

Under the better government act, the home government in India has to exercise the crown's power. The Indian council was formed by 15 members, of which nine should have been serving India for at least ten years. This consisted of the state secretary, assisted by the Indian council. The court of directors elected the other six members of the Indian council. In 1907, two Indians were also selected as part of the Indian council. With this, the framing of a new government with different rules began in India.

3)Indian army reconstruction

The 1857 revolt instilled fear in the minds of the British government. They no longer assumed that Indian people would stand by the British government when the need arose. The British elements in the Indian army were improvised to ensure loyalty and support from the military. Hence, the number of Indian soldiers in the Indian army was drastically reduced from a total of 2,38,000 in 1857 to a total of 1,40,000 in 1863. Simultaneously, the number of England soldiers increased from 45,000 to 65,000.

4)The policy of annexation ended

The revolt of 1857 made the British government realize the importance of the princely states and hence wanted to gain their support. Also, the British were suspicious of the Russian invasion of India under the ongoing circumstances. They felt the need to unite the princely states and use them during times of need. Hence, the policy of annexation of the princely states was given up.

## 5) Beginning of the divide and rule policy

After the revolt of 1857, the British realized that the unity amongst the Indians could be dangerous for their existence and hence started the policy of divide and rule between different castes and classes. The Muslims were made to fight against the Hindus, and the upper caste Hindus were made to fight with the lower caste Hindus. This led to a division of the country's people and deteriorated unity.

## Conclusion

The revolt of 1857 was a turning point in the history of India. Although it was suppressed, it gave the national leaders of our country a way to push Britishers away from us. Many leaders like Mangal Pandey and Bahadur Shah Zafar lost their lives to the revolt. After the revolt, Britishers had to consider revising their policies because they grew suspicious of the loyalty of Indian soldiers and other men. The army was reorganized, the Indian government was given a new structure, and the annexation of princely states was given up.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination

### UPSC Notes [GS-I]

#### Topic: Government of India Act 1858 [NCERT Notes For Modern Indian History for UPSC]

The Government of India Act 1858 was an Act of the British parliament that transferred the government and territories of the [East India Company](#) to the British Crown. The company's rule over British territories in India came to an end and it was passed directly to the British government.

To know more about the [legislation passed in British India](#), click on the linked article.

#### Overview of the Government of India Act, 1858

A cursory detail of the act is given in the table below:

**Government of India Act, 1858**

<b>Long Title</b>	An Act for the Better Government of India
<b>Territorial Extent</b>	Territories under direct British control as well as the Princely State who had to accept the suzerainty of the British Crown
<b>Enacted by</b>	Parliament of Great Britain
<b>Royal Assent</b>	2nd August 1858
<b>Commenced</b>	1st November 1858
<b>Status</b>	Amended

#### Government of India Act 1858

##### Background

- The Revolt of 1857 served as a jolt to the British government.
- There was widespread resentment against the company in Britain as the policies of the company were blamed for the revolt.
- Queen Victoria, who was the monarch of Britain, also became the sovereign of British territories in India, with the title "Empress of India" as a result of this Act.

## Features of Government of India Act 1858

### 1. Provisions of the Government of India Act 1858

- East India Company was liquidated.
- Indian territories of Britain were to be governed in the name of the British Queen.
- The Court of Directors and the Board of Control were scrapped.
- The powers of the Company's Court of Directors were vested with the Secretary of State for India.
- This Secretary of State was to be a British MP and a member of the Prime Minister's cabinet. He was to be assisted by a council of 15 members.
- He was also the channel of communication between the British government in Britain and the Indian administration. He also had the power to send secret despatches to India without consulting his council.
- Via the Secretary of State, the British parliament could ask questions regarding Indian affairs.
- The representative of the British government in India was the Governor-General and Viceroy (both the same person to avoid conflict).
- The Viceroy and the governors of the various presidencies were appointed by the Crown.
- The Viceroy was to be assisted with an Executive Council.
- This act made India a direct British colony.
- This act abolished the dual government of the [Pitt's India Act](#).
- This act also ended the [doctrine of lapse](#).
- The Indian Civil Services was to be instituted for the administration of the country. There was provision for Indians also to be admitted to the service.
- It was decided that the remaining Indian princes and chiefs (more than 560 in number) would have their independent status provided they accept British suzerainty.

### 2. Facts – Government of India Act 1858

- First Secretary of State for India: Lord Stanley
- Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli was opposed to the crown directly ruling India, but his fellow MP's did not agree with his views and the bill passed the House of Commons easily.
- First Governor-General and Viceroy of India: Lord Canning

To know more about the [Governor Generals of Bengal and India](#), visit the linked article.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination

### UPSC Notes [GS-I]

#### Topic: Indian Councils Act 1892 [Modern Indian History For UPSC]

The Indian Councils Act 1892 was an act of the British Parliament that increased the size of the legislative councils in India.

To know more about the [legislation passed in British India](#), click on the linked article.

#### Overview of the Indian Councils Act, 1892

A cursory detail of the act is given in the table below:

**Indian Councils Act, 1892**

<b>Introduced by</b>	Richard Assheton Cross, 1st Viscount Cross
<b>Territorial Extent</b>	Territories under the direct control of the British Crown
<b>Enacted by</b>	Parliament of the United Kingdom
<b>Royal Assent</b>	20th June 1892
<b>Commenced</b>	3rd February 1893
<b>Status</b>	Repealed by Government of India Act 1915

#### Indian Councils Act 1892 Notes

##### Background

- The Indian National Congress (INC) was formed in 1885. There was a growing feeling of nationalism and this led the INC to put forth some demands to the British authorities.
- One of their demands was the reform of the legislative councils.
- They also wanted the principle of election instead of nomination.
- The INC also wanted the right to hold discussions on financial matters which was hitherto not allowed.
- The Viceroy at the time Lord Dufferin set up a committee to look into the matter. But the Secretary of State did not agree to the plan of direct elections. He, however, agreed to representation by way of indirect election.

To know more about the [Governor Generals of Bengal and India](#), visit the linked article.

## Indian Councils Act 1892 Features

### Provisions of the Indian Councils Act 1892

- The act increased the number of additional or non-official members in the legislative councils as follows:
  - Central Legislative Council: 10 – 16 members
  - Bengal: 20 members
  - Madras: 20 members
  - Bombay: 8 members
  - Oudh: 15 members
  - North Western Province: 15
- In 1892, out of 24 members, only 5 were Indians.
- The members were given the right to ask questions on the budget (which was barred in the Indian Councils Act 1861) or matters of public interest but had to give notice of 6 days for it.
- They could not ask supplementary questions.
- The principle of representation was initiated through this act. The district boards, universities, municipalities, chambers of commerce and zamindars were authorised to recommend members to the provincial councils.
- The legislative councils were empowered to make new laws and repeal old laws with the permission of the Governor-General.

### Assessment of the Indian Councils Act 1892

- It was the first step towards a representative form of government in modern India although there was nothing in it for the common man.
- The number of Indians was increased and this was a positive step.
- However, since the British conceded only a little, this act led indirectly to the rise of many revolutionary movements in India. Many leaders like Bal Gangadhar Tilak blamed Congress's moderate policy of petitions and persuasions for a lack of positive developments and called for a more aggressive policy against British rule.

# Indian Councils Act 1892

The introduced Indian Councils Act of 1861 was getting the job done from the eyes of the colonial government. However, the subsequent years following the revolt of 1857 saw a rise of nationalism in the country. The common people living in the country identified the mutual interests and aspirations for the country. The British saw this as a threat to their rule. Meanwhile, the newly formed Indian National Congress demanded the expansion of executive and legislative councils across the country and the inclusion of an increased number of Indians in the council. At the time of the INC constitution, Lord Dufferin was the Governor-General of the country. The INC chased after the government for the inclusion of more Indians into the council. However, the government did not see the educated Indians as the true representatives of the people of India and saw their demands with suspicion. Over time, the colonial Government realised that the rise of nationalism in the country cannot be subsided any further and to safeguard the colonial interest in the country, they'll have to fulfil the demands of the Indians who were willing to fit into a small and suitable constitutional framework.

The government sought that by introducing few constitutional changes in the country, the educated Indians can be subsided and with this objective, the colonial government introduced the Indian Council Act of 1892.

## Main Features of Indian Council Act 1892

The main features of the introduced Indian Council Act of 1892 are as follows:

- Several features of the new act resembled the previous act of 1861. However, two major changes were introduced in the Indian Council Act of 1892.
- The newly introduced act made it mandatory for the General-Governors council to have not less than 10 and not more than 16 members, which required that one-half of the council should not have the background of military personnel, the candidates chosen should essentially be non-official.
- The demands included a law for the elections. However, the Indian Council Act of 1892 authorised the ruling Governor-General to invite the bodies in India to nominate or elect the council representatives.
- The implementation of the proposed law could have been in the creation of the legislative council in Punjab and Burma. One member was selected on the recommendation made by the Calcutta Chamber of Commerce. Usually, the recommended names were always elected to be part of the Governor-General's council.
- The act emphasised that the members selected to be part of the council were not there as a representative of any Indian body but as a nominee of the Governor-General.



- The elected members were allowed to pass resolutions on the annual financial statements. However, the documents presented were unalterable. In some cases, the members of the provinces were allowed to look at the expenditure and revenue heads of the sectors that were directly under the provincial governments.
- The elected members were allowed to hold discussions on official and internal matters.

## Criticisms of the Indian Council Act 1892

The Indian National Congress heavily criticised the Act of 1892 in its sessions held in the years 1892 and 1893. It was distressed over the fact that direct elections were not being introduced in the country. However, the act highlighted that the mentioned rules are liberal which allowed the nationalist leaders to incorporate their debating and legislative skills and entered the legislatures themselves to represent the voice of several Indians.

## Conclusion

The colonial government introduced the Indian Councils Act of 1892 to subside the efforts of the Indians to rebel against the crown rule. The law empowered the Indian authorities to send their representatives to the councils and make the communication system more transparent.

The East India Company Act of 1813 is also known as the Charter act of 1813. In this act, the parliament of the United Kingdom rejuvenated the Charter, which the British East India Company provisioned. Then they proceeded with the rule of the company in India.

Except for the trade for tea and opium and the trade-in, China was the only one left. All other commercials of the company were ended. In this article, we will tell you about the Charter act of 1813, the background of the 1813 act, and the provisions of this act.

## What is the Charter Act of 1813?

The Charter act of 1813 was mostly known as the East India Company Act of 1813. In this act, the British East India company's charter was issued by the United Kingdom's parliament, leading to the company's rule in India. Most of the company's commercials for the British East India Company were ended, opium and tea were the only ones left for trading, and the trade with China was also going on. By this act, British India allotted 100,000 rupees, for the education of Indians. The Christian Missionary permitted them to preach English and their religion. The power of this act increased the knowledge or strength of the Courts in India, which were over the European British and the power of the probationary government. And for the promotion of science, Indian literature was also very promoted.

The historian and the literary critic Gauri Viswanathan determined two major changes that were Between India and the British, namely:

- Education of the Indian people was taken as the responsibility of the British
- Missionary activity relaxation and its control

Antecedently the provision of education was under the governor-general of Bengal. This App helps to overcome individualistic status by demonstrating obligation, which is used to promote the happiness and interest of the people and the moral and religious support and responsibility that the British state was not able to do to the British people at that time when the Act was passed. The lifestyles of East India Company, the parliamentary party, were very concerned about them the natural resources and felt that Britishers might lead by example, lacking the ability to restrict the activities of rich nabobs.

For about 20 years, the British parliament passed the East India Company Charter in the Charter act of 1813. Before the 1813 legislation, the British and the East India Company parliament refused the activities of missionaries in India and imposed the Bible, and forbade religious education. They thought if they were exposed to Christianity, the Indians might feel endangered, and so they would have become a threat to British ventures of commerce.

The company's charter was previously renewed in 1793, and the ulterior was renewed in 1833.

# Importance of charter act 1813

- Due to the system of Napoleon Bonaparte in Europe in which the provision of the import took the place of British goods into French allies word present British traders and merchants suffered a great loss
- The company was subjected to the Charter act of 1813
- In the trade of opium and the traders of China and the traders of tea, the company retained its monopoly
- Demanded the share which was in Asia as British India wanted to dissolve the East India Company monopoly
- Under the strict circumstances of the licensing system, the British merchants were then allowed the trade in India under the charter act of 1813

## Objectives of the Charter Act of 1813

The main object of the charter act of 1813 was to extend the control over the company for another 20 years.

## Provisions of the Charter Act of 1813

This act of charter 1813 maintained the jurisdiction of Crowns over the British companies in India.

Their Monopoly was broken with every other company, but opium, tea, and China's trade were still happening. For another 20 years, the rule of the corporation was extended.

It gave the local government the opportunity and ability whose taxes were under the supreme court jurisdiction. As a result of this, it held the company's division by 10.5 percent.

The Charter act of 1813 allowed many Indian authorities and Indian Court to rule over British European topics.

The Charter act of 1813 gave many missionaries the freedom to enter India and engage in various religious practices. Within the headquarters in Calcutta, the missionary was successful in obtaining British India's Bishop appointment.

The Charter act of 1813 was also called the financial current, which was used to support the reincarnation of Indian literature and the advancement of science and greater functions or responsibilities for the Corporation in India's education sector having it under their control. For this purpose, 100000 rupees, we decided to put aside.

## Conclusion

In the charter act of 1813, the board of control, Direction, and supervision power were expanded and created. The main and most important provision of the Charter act of 1813 was the provision

of 100000 rupees per year, which was used to revitalise and improve English literature and commendation of India's domain or land in native and promotion of scientific knowledge among British Indian territories.

## [February 2, 1835] This Day in History

**2 February 1835**

*Macaulay's Minute on Indian Education*

### What happened?



Thomas Babington Macaulay

On 2 February 1835, British historian and politician Thomas Babington Macaulay presented his 'Minute on Indian Education' that sought to establish the need to impart English education to Indian 'natives'.

*This minute is a very important document for UPSC history. Aspirants should know the gist of this minute and its impact on Indian education and society for the IAS exam.*

### Background

- British education policy in colonial India was initially almost non-existent as their sole purpose was to make profit through trade and other means. Gradually, the importance of education was appreciated and the company started building a few institutes of higher learning. These learning centres taught Indian subjects in languages like Sanskrit, Arabic and Persian. Persian was the court language too.
- The Charter Act of 1813 was the first concrete step towards modern education in the country. This act set aside an annual sum of Rs.1 lakh to be used in educating the 'subjects'.
- One must note that missionaries were already present in the country and they were involved in this field as well. However, they chiefly imparted religious education and their primary motive was Christianizing the 'heathen' natives.
- After the Charter Act, there was a split among the British regarding the mode of education to be imparted to Indians. While the orientalist believed that Indians should be educated in their own languages and taught their own scriptures and texts, the other group decided that English education was the best kind to be imparted.
- It was in the midst of this that Macaulay landed in India in June 1834, as the President of the General Committee of Public Instruction (GCPI).
- Macaulay was a proud Englishman convinced of his own nation's greatness and achievements, which he considered the best whether it was in the sciences or the arts. Nothing wrong with that, except that he was

perhaps too prejudiced to see things from a different perspective. His famous minute will reveal his scant regard for anything Indian.

- In his minute on education, he justified the use of English as the medium of instruction, and also the teaching of western education to Indians.
- He lampooned Indian knowledge and languages and thought them completely worthless. For instance, he said of Indian literature:

*“...a single shelf of a good European library was worth the whole native literature of India and Arabia.”*

- He also believed that western science was far superior to Indian knowledge. *“It is, I believe, no exaggeration to say that all the historical information which has been collected from all the books written in the Sanskrit language is less valuable than what may be found in the most paltry abridgments used at preparatory schools in England.”*
- Of course, one must remember that these were not just his own ideas or opinions. He was merely reiterating what many in the west thought then.
- Macaulay wanted the government to spend money only on imparting western education and not on oriental education. He advocated the shutting down of all colleges where only eastern philosophy and subjects were taught.
- He also advocated that the government try to educate only a few Indians, who would in turn teach the rest of the masses. This is called the ‘downward filtration’ policy.
- He wanted to create a pool of Indians who would be able to serve British interests and be loyal to them. This class would be *“Indian in blood and colour, but English in tastes, in opinions, in morals and in intellect.”*
- Macaulay’s proposals were promptly accepted by Lord William Bentinck, but he cleverly deferred its implementation until he was to relinquish his post as governor-general. Bentinck perhaps wanted to avoid a backlash from some quarters. He nevertheless, did not shut down oriental learning completely as proposed by Macaulay.
- Macaulay’s proposals were officially sanctioned in March 1835. In 1837, English was made the court language. In 1844, high government posts were open to Indians.
- Later the Wood’s Despatch in 1854 regularised British efforts for education in India.
- Macaulay obviously won the debate against the orientalist. It would not be an exaggeration to say that he set the tone of education in India for good.
- In his minute, he had said that a day could come when the vernacular languages would die a natural death. Today, he has been proved wrong. The number of people who use these languages is increasing by the day. The literature in these languages is also expanding and evolving.
- He has of course been successful in creating a class of Indians who have taken to the English language enthusiastically. Many in the country use it as a first language although this number is small.
- It could be argued that moral victory is with the Indians in this English versus native debate. Whether Macaulay was able to make Englishmen out of Indians is debatable, but the English language has been conveniently Indianised and altered to such an extent that sometimes it is hardly discerned by the native English!

# Woods Dispatch

Lord Dalhousie, India's Governor-General at the time, received an official letter from Sir Charles Wood, the President of a Board of Control of a British East India Company, in 1854 suggesting a significant shift in India's use of the English language which came to be known as Wood's Despatch.

- Charles Wood Despatch suggested that English should be the primary language of instruction in universities, while vernacular languages should be adopted by primary schools and Anglo-vernacular languages by high schools.
- The growth of English education and female education in India was greatly helped by Wood's letter. Making an English class available to Indians so they could work as employees in the company's administration was one of the best decisions made. He also gave more weight to women's education and vocational training.

## Who was Charles Woods?

Charles Wood served as the president of the English East India Company's Board of Control, established by Pitt's India Act of 1784. He has also served as India's state secretary. He significantly contributed to the spread of education in India.

- Charles Wood gave India its Magna Carta of Indian Education which made a huge impact.

## Magna Carta of Indian Education

The Wood's Despatch came to be known as the Magna Carta of English Education in India. Following are some of the objectives of the Woods Dispatch

- To teach Western knowledge and facts about Western culture to Indians.
- To provide education to native Indians in order to produce a class of governmental servants.
- To promote the next generation's moral development while simultaneously fostering their intellectual growth.
- To enhance Indians' practical and vocational abilities so that a larger variety of goods may be created, as well as to develop a healthy market for the purchase of such products.

## Salient Features of Woods Despatch

The Board of Control's President, Sir Charles Wood, had a significant role in India's establishment of English language teaching and female education. He sent a letter to Lord Dalhousie, who was India's Governor-General at the time, in 1854. Woods Dispatch supported for the use of vernacular languages in primary schools, Anglo-vernacular languages in high schools, and English for college students. He also explains the aims and outcomes of the Company's educational program in India in the first instance. It gave Indian education a higher priority than any other work the corporation had to do.

## Recommendation of Woods Dispatch 1854



Following is some of the recommendations made by Sir Charles Wood:

- A Department of Public Instruction should be established in each of Bengal's five provinces, including Bombay, Punjab, Madras, and in North-Western provinces, according to Wood's Despatch.
- Another important recommendation made by the Woods Dispatch was to increase public education.
- Many efforts were made to increase the number of primary, middle, & high schools once it was recognised that the local people lacked educational opportunities.
- The Woods Dispatch campaigned for the creation of universities in the three major towns of Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay. The University of London was to serve as the inspiration for the universities.
- The universities planned to develop departments of civil engineering, law, Arabic, Persian, and Sanskrit.
- Indian education required a grant-in-aid system, according to Woods Despatch.
- The Woods Dispatch emphasized the value of teaching Indian languages with the necessity of teaching English.
- The Woods Despatch also advocated for continued government funding of women's education.
- The Woods Dispatch recommended opening teacher training programmes in every province. Teachers at special schools should have training in engineering, medicine, and law.
- He promoted the creation of a system of graded schools across the country.

## Impact of Wood's Despatch on Indian Education

Wood's Despatch reflected the following developments:

- In 1857, universities were established in Bombay, Madras, and Calcutta.
- Education departments have been established in all provinces.
- The Bethune School (created by J.E.D. Bethune) was established to educate women.
- An Agriculture Institute in Pusa (Bihar) as well as an Engineering Institute in Roorkee were established.
- The education system in British India was rapidly westernised, with European headmasters & principals in colleges and schools.



## Who was Charles Wood and what was Wood's Despatch?

Charles Wood was the President of the **Board of Control** (Introduced through [Pitt's India Act, 1784](#)) of English East India Company. He had also been the Secretary of the state of India. He had a great impact on disseminating education in India.

In 1854 he sent a despatch to Lord Dalhousie, the then Governor-General of India. Wood's despatch suggested that primary schools must Adopt vernacular languages. Through the despatch, he also suggested that high schools use anglo-vernacular medium and that English should be the medium for college-level education. Hence, the Wood's Despatch is considered as '**Magna-Carta**' of English Education in India.

### Features of Wood's Despatch

As the Wood's Despatch promoted education rejecting the '**downward filtration theory**', aspirants should know all the spheres where the despatch had an impact on:

#### 1. **Primary Education**

- Vernacular languages were to be promoted
- Education Department was to set up in every province
- At least one government school be opened in every district
- Systematic method of education

#### 2. **Higher Education**

- Universities on the model of the London university be established in big cities like Bombay, Madras and Calcutta
- Systematic method of education

#### 3. **Women's Education**

- Promoted female education on all levels

#### 4. **Hierarchy in education was systemised**

- Primary schools in villages (Bottom)
- Anglo-Vernacular High Schools
- Affiliated colleges at district level
- Affiliating universities in the presidency towns

#### 5. **English Education**

- English was made the medium of instruction for higher studies

#### 6. **Vernacular Education**

- Vernacular languages (spoken by the common masses) to be promoted at primary level

## 7. **Teachers' training**

- Promotion and stress on teachers' training at all levels

## 8. **Secular Education** to be promoted

## 9. **Grants-in-aid** to encourage private enterprise.

### ●Impact of Wood's Despatch

The following developments were reflected post-Charles Wood's Despatch:

1. Bombay, Madras and Calcutta universities were set up in 1857
2. In all provinces, education departments were set up
3. Bethune School (founded by J.E.D. Bethune) was started for women education
4. Agriculture Institute at Pusa (Bihar) and an Engineering Institute at Roorkee were started
5. British India witnessed rapid westernisation of education system with European headmasters and principals in schools and colleges
6. Private Indian educators appeared

Wood's Despatch	
When was the Wood's despatch introduced?	1854
What was the motive of Wood's Despatch?	To spread education in India
Was Wood's Despatch against vernacular languages?	No, it in fact promoted vernacular languages
Did Wood's Despatch deny women the right to education?	No, it promoted women education at all levels

Which universities were set up following Wood's Despatch?	Calcutta, Bombay and Madras Universities
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## Conclusion

Wood's Despatch is an important topic in modern Indian history for the Civil Services Exam and other [government exams](#). It took modern education in India to a whole new level. This despatch, which was sent to the then Governor-General Lord Dalhousie, contained steps that were suggested to the British authorities in order for the governing body to take education in British India seriously and to the benefit of the Indians

The Hunter Commission of 1882 was presided by Sir William Hunter and was appointed by Lord Ripon, the then viceroy of India. The hunter commission was constituted on 3rd April 1882, after a request of the general council of education was made to Ripon. This article will provide you with important facts about the topic, 'Hunter Commission Reports' of 1882 and 1920 that are of significance.

## Hunter Commission – Who was Sir William Hunter?

Sir William Hunter was an Indian Civil Service officer and a member of the Executive Council of the Viceroy.

William Wilson Hunter was born on 15 July 1840 in Glasgow, Scotland, to Andrew Galloway Hunter, a Glasgow manufacturer. He was the second of his father's three sons. In 1854 he started his education at the 'Quaker Seminary' at Queenswood, Hampshire and a year later he joined the Glasgow Academy.

He was educated at Glasgow University (BA 1860), Paris and Bonn, acquiring a knowledge of Sanskrit, LL.D., before passing first in the final examination for the Indian Civil Service in 1862

History of Modern India for UPSC is closely related to the History of the British Raj in India. Due to this, major commissions, laws and events related to the raj are an important part of the UPSC Syllabus. In this article, we will discuss the Hunter Commission Reports of 1882 and 1920 in relation to the [IAS Exam](#) and the merits of the Hunter Commission.

## Hunter Commission Report of 1882

The [revolt of 1857](#) shook the very foundation of British Empire in the country and the administration was taken away from the company and transferred to the crown. The normalization of conditions took some time. By 1882 it was considered necessary to assess the development of education in the country and to remove the defects which has crept into it.

For this purpose [Lord Ripon](#) appointed on February 3, 1882 the Indian Education Commission under the chairmanship of William Hunter, a member of the executive council of viceroy. Subsequently Indian Universities Act of 1904 and Lord Curzon's Educational Policy also came into existence to improve upon the educational system of India

The following were the main objectives:

Consider different aspects of education in India, paying particular attention to primary education.

### **What Were the Main Recommendations of the Hunter Commission?**

Major recommendations by the Hunter Commission of 1882 resulted in the following changes in the education system of British India:

- Preference was given to literate candidates for government jobs in the lower levels, along with expansion of primary schools in backward districts.
- District and municipal boards were entrusted with the management of primary education under the Local Self Government Act. The funds were separated for rural and urban areas to avoid funds earmarked for rural schools being misappropriated by urban schools.
- Secondary schools were to be established by private parties with funds provided by the government. Model schools fully run by the government were to be opened in each district to guide such private schools.
- Secondary school curriculum was also revised with academic and vocational courses diversified into different branches.
- Missionary schools were discouraged, and Indian participation in the private school system was solicited by the raj. Special care was supposed to be taken in advancing the education of girls and women.

Though most of these changes were positive, these changes were only limited to the schools following the system laid down by the British Indian Government. As traditional schools died out from lack of funding and enrolment, the government school system became more and more overburdened, resulting in systemic problems in primary education that affect the society even today.

This is an important part of the UPSC Syllabus for History of India and Indian National Movement for IAS prelims as well as IAS Mains General Studies. This topic is part of the static syllabus of UPSC, hence should be read in detail.

## **Hunter Commission of 1920**

While the Hunter Commission of 1882 was appointed by the then Governor-General in circumstances of relative peace, the Hunter Commission of 1920 was appointed by the then Secretary of State for India, Edwin Montagu under far more tragic circumstances during a time of turmoil. The official name of the Hunter Committee of 1920 was the Disorders Inquiry Committee and was constituted after the massacre at Jallianwalla Bagh on 13 April 1919. The events leading up to the actions of General Dyer at Jallianwalla Bagh are well known and form an important part of the History of the

Freedom Movement. The [Jallianwalla Bagh Massacre](#), also known as the Amritsar Massacre of 1919 took place when General Dyer of the British Indian Army ordered his troops to open fire and keep firing into a crowd of unarmed people inside Jallianwalla Bagh. The Hunter Commission of 1920 appointed to investigate the Amritsar Massacre had the following members:

- Lord William Hunter, Chairman of the Hunter Commission, former Solicitor General of Scotland
- W.F. Rice, Home Department member
- Thomas Smith, Member, Legislative Council, United Provinces
- Pandit Jagat Narayan, Member, Legislative Council, United Provinces and lawyer
- H.C. Stokes, Secretary of the Commission and Home Department member
- Sardar Sahibzada Sultan Ahmad Khan, Gwalior State lawyer
- Sir Chimanlal Harilal Setalvad, Vice-Chancellor, Bombay University and advocate, Bombay High Court
- Mr Justice George C. Rankin, Calcutta
- Major-General Sir George Barrow, KCB, KCMG, GOC Peshawar Division

Due to the commission being composed of both British and Indian officials, there were reports of racial tension between them. In spite of this, the committee unanimously condemned General Dyer's actions and published the following findings:

- Dyer did not ask the crowd to disperse before opening fire into the crowd and continued firing until ammunition was exhausted. This constituted a serious error.
- Dyer's intention of producing moral effect through the use of force was condemnable and he had exceeded the limits of authority assigned to him.

There was no conspiracy to oust British Rule from Punjab that had led to the assembly of people at Jallianwalla Bagh.

The Indian members added to these findings, the following observations:

- Orders prohibiting public meetings had not been sufficiently circulated in Punjab in general and in Amritsar in particular which could have prevented the Jallianwalla Bagh Massacre.
- Innocent people formed the crowd at Jallianwalla Bagh and there was no violence before the massacre.
- Dyer should have ordered troops to help the wounded people or informed civilian authorities to arrange aid. His actions were condemned as inhuman and greatly damaged the image of the British in India.

- The Hunter Commission report was important in the context that its findings paved the way for public opinion in both Britain and India gradually turning against British rule in India. In particular, General Dyer was relieved of command and officially rebuked by the House of Commons of the UK based on his actions and statements during the massacre and afterwards.
- The Hunter Commission report findings were also instrumental in the development of the use of minimum force in crowd control worldwide.

# Introduction

To develop and make changes in the education system and the universities, several new commissions, acts, and reforms were introduced mainly in the beginning of the 20th century. One such reform that was introduced is the Hunter Commission that failed to bring the Indian education system within track. When Lord Curzon became the Indian viceroy, he decided to change the propositions of the Hunter Commission. This led to the formulation and adoption of The Indian Universities Act, 1904.

This Act was passed in an attempt to improve the situation of university education in India. It worked to bring all universities under the control of the Government of India.

## Lord Curzon and the round table conference at Simla

After Lord Curzon was appointed as the new Viceroy in India, he called for a round table conference at Simla in 1901. At this meeting, the higher education offices in India and representatives from different universities from across the country were present. Curzon discussed the then-condition of the Indian education system along with the drawbacks and gaps that needed urgent attention.

After a lot of discussion, several resolutions were adopted that targeted almost all the educational branches in India. In 1902, Sir Raleigh initiated another commission for all the Indian universities. Even though the investigation and approaches in the commission were useful, nothing was said about the primary and secondary education. Apart from this, the commission had several other drawbacks which led to the amendments and the introduction of The University Act, 1904.

## Provision of The Universities Act 1904

There were several provisions introduced under the Indian University Commission 1904. Some of these are described below:

1. The Indian University Act 1904 provides power to universities to conduct their private teaching and other activities.
2. Teaching and supervision for examinations were the responsibility of the university itself.
3. Universities must focus on research. Laboratories were permitted to set up laboratories for different disciplines.
4. Universities can appoint new staff, recruit professionals, and set up libraries in order to expand knowledge in students.



5. One of the main amendments in The University Act 1904 was the reduction of the number of fellows from 100 to 50. Universities with greater than 50 fellows would be held accountable
6. Each fellow will have an office period of six months instead of a lifetime.
7. This act introduced the process of Senate election in different universities. For Madras, Bombay, and Calcutta, the number of elected fellows was 20, whereas for other universities, it was 15.
8. The government gained the power to change the rules provided by the senate when the senate failed to frame them.
9. Under the provision of The University Act 1904, the Syndicates received recognition in the Indian education system. Apart from this, all the teachers working at a university received representation in the university Senate.
10. To ensure a stronger relationship between the colleges and universities, every college needed to be affiliated with a particular university. The affiliated university may or may not be within the jurisdiction of the local area.
11. A grant of INR 5 lakhs was offered throughout the span of five years to fellows for further studies and research work.
12. The Governor-General Council was given the power to handle all the jurisdictional matters of any university regarding the territory on which it is located.

## Impact of the Indian Universities Act, 1904

As The Universities Act, 1904 was a major reform in the Indian education system, several scholars and other members associated with universities proposed their opinions in various manners. For instance:

- The Sadler Commission 1917 criticised the Act for making universities largely governmental.
- The nationalists further considered this act to strengthen imperialism and used this to subjugate the nationalist feeling. In addition, Gopal Krishna Gokhale named it as the “retrograde measure.”
- After this, Lord Curzon used the reform to improve the area of Primary education. Most schools were provided with a generous amount of financial aid- from 40 Lakhs to 75 Lakhs- over the years of 1905-1912.
- Perhaps the most helpful result of the Indian Universities Act 1904 was the introduction of the concept of government grants, which continues to be implemented till now.

## Conclusion

The Indian Universities Act 1904 was introduced by Lord Curzon to improve the condition of university education in India. The Act introduced governmental control over universities. It expanded the scope of university education. New initiatives such as laboratories were introduced to improve the quality of research. The Act was beneficial due to its concept of grants, increase in expenditure on education as well as new students. The Act also faced criticism by the Sandler Commission for the authority given to the government, by nationalists, and even by Gopal Krishna Gokhale. Even though several other amendments and reforms were introduced later on in the Indian education system, The Indian Universities Acts 1904 was a major step taken by the British government. It not only stabilised the education system but also widened the scope for many sharp and intelligent minds.

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The ***process of development of press in India can only be partially attributed to the British government***. Although it is credited with the introduction of the press in India, which was independent, the growth of journalism and the Indian press was initially hindered by the British government to a large extent. The inclusion of the press was done by the British government during the colonial period with the intention of smooth passage of information. Later, the development of the press in India contributed immensely to the freedom struggle against the Britishers.

Despite the introduction of journalism and the press, hard efforts were made by the British to curb the development of press in India at the time. This was done to prevent the spread of patriotic and nationalist opinions of the Indians. Yet, it became one of the most important mediums to spread the message of patriotism and enhance the struggle for independence. The development of Press in India became an essential tool in the freedom movements of India.

## Development of Press in India

The history of the development of press in India started with the creation of a newspaper called The Bengal Gazette which was started by James Augustus Hickey in 1780. The paper was also known as the **Calcutta General Advertiser**. The credit for the origin of the Indian press in the colonial period, therefore, goes to James Hickey for sowing the seed of journalism in India.

The Bengal Gazette was the first newspaper ever published, but its operations were stopped soon in 1872. The reason behind it was the aggressive condemnation of the East India Company through its articles. The [role of the press in the freedom struggle](#) was considered very important.

- After the Bengal Gazette was stopped from publishing, many other newspapers came into existence, such as the **Calcutta Chronicle, the Bengal Journal, the Bombay Herald, and the Madras Courier**.
- Seeing the introduction of so many newspapers, the East India Company expressed its concern regarding the news of their unfair practices in India.
- To prevent the information of these newspapers from reaching London, the East India Company sought to impose restrictions on the publication of all the newspapers and journals.

## Development of Press During British Rule

To prevent the growth and ***development of the press in India***, the British government decided to pass certain acts and regulations. The intention behind these acts was to stop the spread of specifically nationalist views and sentiments through these newspapers.

The East India Company wanted to prohibit the Indians from coming together and launching a revolt against the government. Here are some important acts and regulations that were passed during British rule:-

- Censorship of Press Act
- Licensing Regulation Ordinance
- Press Act or the Metcalfe Act
- Licensing Act
- Vernacular Press Act
- Registration Act
- Indian Press Act
- Newspaper Act

## Censorship of Press Act 1799

The first act passed in the direction of imposing restrictions on the Indian press was the **Censorship of Press Act in 1799**. It was passed by **Richard Wellesley**, who was the Governor-General of India at the time.

- The Censorship of Press Act was passed in order to restrict the French people from spreading any news that was against the British government.
- It also imposed a restriction on all the newspapers and journals that would not be published without first getting approval from the British government.
- All the magazines, journals, pamphlets, books, and newspapers were covered under this act after a modification in 1807.
- The limitations were made to be easier after **Francis Hastings** occupied the chair in the year 1818.

## Licensing Regulation Act 1823 and John Adams Press Regulation

The next act or ordinance passed was the **Licensing Regulation Act** by John Adams. This ordinance was passed in **1823** by Adams, who was the Governor-General then. This act was primarily focused on the Indian newspapers or those that were at least edited by Indians.

- According to the Licensing Regulation, if any newspaper were published without a license, it would be considered a serious criminal violation.
- All the Indian newspapers came under the radar.
- Raja Ram Mohan Roy decided to stop the publication of **Mirat-ul-Akhbar** which was a Persian journal.
- The journal was started by Roy in 1822.
- He also launched a revolt against the British government in 1824.

## Metcalfe Act or Press Act 1835

The Press Act or the **Metcalfe Act** came to be known as the *liberator of the press*. The act revoked the License Regulations of 1823. It enabled the press to be more liberal, which contributed to the development of press in India to a great extent.

The main requirement of the Metcalfe Act was that the printer of the publisher of the newspaper must provide all details regarding the place of publication. If the instructions are not followed, the newspaper shall be stopped from publishing.

## Licensing Act 1857

Another act was passed after the [Revolt of 1857](#), called the Licensing Act. The act was passed by Canning, the Governor-General of India at the time. This act passed strict limitations on the press. Any new publications were supposed to be published or printed only with the permission of the Government.

## Vernacular Press Act 1878

An act was passed by **Lyttton**, who was the then Viceroy of India. This act was passed towards controlling the vernacular press in a better way. The [Vernacular Press Act](#) was introduced to limit the freedom of newspapers published in local Indian languages. It happened as a result of the differences between the European population and the Indian population post the Revolt of 1857.

## Growth of Press in India

The growth of Press in India was a slow process. The introduction of Press and journalism was made by James Hickey, who published the first newspaper in India. Gradually the press became a medium of communication for the [Indian freedom fighters](#) who wanted to spread nationalist and patriotic sentiments among the Indian people.

The growth of press in India gradually resulted in becoming a medium where the British government and its policies could be criticized. This entire process actually showed the importance and [role of media in a democracy](#).

## Development of Press in India UPSC

The development of Press in India was an important event in the history of the nation. It showed how the media and journalism could play a significant role in spreading the required message and information among the people. It had the power to generate a mass uprising and even initiate revolts and protests.



## Socio-Religious Reform Movements: Part I

### What are social religious reform movements?

- The Indian society in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century was **caste ridden, decadent and rigid**.
  - It followed certain practices which are not in keeping with humanitarian feelings or values but were still being followed in the name of religion.
- Some enlightened Indians like [Raja Ram Mohan Roy](#), [Ishwar Chand Vidyasagar](#), **Dayanand Saraswati** and many others started to bring in reforms in society so that it could face the challenges of the West.
- The reform movements could broadly be classified into two categories:
  - **Reformist movements** like the Brahmo Samaj, the Prarthana Samaj, the Aligarh Movement.
  - **Revivalist movements** like Arya Samaj and the Deoband movement.
- The reformist as well as the revivalist movement depended, to varying degrees, on an appeal to the lost purity of the religion they sought to reform.
- The only difference between one reform movement and the other lay in the degree to which it relied on tradition or on reason and conscience.

### What are the Factors which gave Rise to Reform Movements?

- **Presence of colonial government on Indian soil:** When the British came to India they introduced the English language as well as certain modern ideas.
  - These ideas were those of liberty, social and economic equality, fraternity, democracy and justice which had a tremendous impact on Indian society.
- **Religious and Social Ills:** Indian society in the nineteenth century was caught in a vicious web created by religious superstitions and social obscurantism.
- **Depressing Position of Women:** The most distressing was the position of women.
  - The killing of female infants at birth was prevalent.
  - Child marriage was practiced in society.
  - The practice of polygamy prevailed in many parts of country.
  - The widow remarriage was not allowed and the sati pratha was prevalent on a large scale.
- **Spread of Education and Increased Awareness of the World:** From the late 19th century a number of European and Indian scholars started the study of ancient India's history, philosophy, science, religions and literature.
  - This growing knowledge of India's past glory provided to the Indian people a sense of pride in their civilization.
  - It also helped the reformers in their work of religious and social reform for their struggle against all types of inhuman practices, superstitions etc.
- **Awareness of the Outside World:** During the last decades of the nineteenth century, the rising tide of nationalism and democracy also found expression in movements to reform and democratise the social institutions and religious outlook of the Indian people.

- Factors such as growth of nationalist sentiments, emergence of new economic forces, spread of education, impact of modern Western ideas and culture and increased awareness of the world strengthened the resolve to reform.

## What was the Brahmo Samaj Movement?

- Raja Ram Mohan Roy founded **Brahmo Sabha** in **1828**, which was later renamed as **Brahmo Samaj**.
- Its chief aim was the worship of the eternal God. It was against priesthood, rituals and sacrifices.
- It focused on **prayers, meditation and reading of the scriptures**. It believed in the unity of all religions.
- It was the **first intellectual reform movement in modern India**. It led to the emergence of **rationalism and enlightenment** in India which indirectly contributed to the nationalist movement.
- It was the forerunner of all social, religious and political movements of modern India. It split into two in 1866, namely **Brahmo Samaj of India** led by **Keshub Chandra Sen** and **Adi Brahmo Samaj** led by **Debendranath Tagore**.
- **Prominent Leaders:** Debendranath Tagore, Keshub Chandra Sen, Pt. Sivnath Shastri, and Rabindranath Tagore.
  - Debendra Nath Tagor headed the **Tattvabodhini Sabha (founded in 1839)** which, along with its organ **Tattvabodhini Patrika in Bengali**, was devoted to the systematic study of India's past with a rational outlook and to the propagation of Rammohan's ideas.
- Rammohan Roy progressive ideas met with strong opposition from orthodox elements like Raja Radhakant Deb who organised the **Dharma Sabha** to counter Brahmo Samaj propaganda.

## What was the Prarthana Samaj?

- The Prarthana Samaj was established in Bombay by **Dr. Atma Ram Pandurang** in 1876 with the **objective of rational worship and social reform**.
- The two great members of this Samaj were **R.C. Bhandarkar** and **Justice Mahadev Govind Ranade**.
  - They devoted themselves to the work of social reform such as inter-caste dining, inter-caste marriage, widow remarriage and improvement of the lot of women and depressed classes.
- The four point social agenda of Prarthana Samaj were
  - Disapproval of caste system
  - Women education
  - Widow remarriage
  - Raising the age of marriage for both males and females
- Mahavdev Govind Ranade was the founder of the **Widow Remarriage Association (1861)** and the **Deccan Education Society**.
  - He established the **Poona Sarvajanik Sabha** as well.
  - To Ranade, religious reform was inseparable from social reform.
  - He also believed that if religious ideas were rigid there would be no success in social, economic and political spheres.
  - Although Prarthana Samaj was powerfully influenced by the ideas of Brahmo Samaj, it did not insist upon a rigid exclusion of idol worship and a definite break from the caste system.

## What was the Satyashodhak Samaj?

- **Jyotiba Phule** organized a powerful movement against upper caste domination and brahminical supremacy.
- He founded the **Satyashodhak Samaj (Truth Seekers' Society) in 1873**.
- The main aims of the movement were:

- Social service
- Spread of education among women and lower caste people
- Phule's works, **Sarvajanik Satyadharma** and **Ghulamgin**, became a source of inspiration for the common masses.
- Phule used the symbol of **Rajah Bali** as opposed to the brahmins' symbol of Rama.
- Phule aimed at the **complete abolition of the caste system and socio-economic inequalities**.
- This movement gave a sense of identity to the depressed communities as a class against the Brahmins, who were seen as the exploiters.

## What was the Arya Samaj Movement?

- The Arya Samaj Movement was **revivalist in form though not in content**, as the result of a reaction to Western influences.
- The first Arya Samaj unit was formally set up by **Dayananda Saraswati** at Bombay in 1875 and later the headquarters of the Samaj were established at Lahore.
- **Guiding principles of the Arya Samaj are:**
  - God is the primary source of all true knowledge;
  - God, as all-truth, all-knowledge, almighty, immortal, creator of Universe, is alone worthy of worship;
  - The Vedas are the books of true knowledge;
  - An Arya should always be ready to accept truth and abandon untruth;
  - Dharma, that is, due consideration of right and wrong, should be the guiding principle of all actions;
  - The principal aim of the Samaj is to promote world's well-being in the material, spiritual and social sense;
  - Everybody should be treated with love and justice;
  - Ignorance is to be dispelled and knowledge increased;
  - One's own progress should depend on the uplift of all others;
  - Social well-being of mankind is to be placed above an individual's well-being.
- The nucleus for this movement was provided by the **Dayanand Anglo-Vedic (D.A.V.)** schools, established first at Lahore in 1886, which sought to **emphasise the importance of Western education**.
- The Arya Samaj was able to **give self-respect and self confidence to the Hindus** which helped to undermine the myth of superiority of whites and the Western culture.
- The Arya Samaj started the **shuddhi (purification) movement** to reconvert to the Hindu fold the converts to Christianity and Islam.
  - This led to increasing communalisation of social life during the 1920s and later snowballed into communal political consciousness.
- The work of the Swami after his death was carried forward by Lala Hansraj, Pandit Gurudutt, Lala Lajpat Rai and Swami Shraddhanand, among others.
- Dayananda's views were published in his famous work, Satyarth Prakash (The True Exposition).

## What was the Young Bengal Movement?

- The young Bengal movement was a movement led by thinkers of the **Hindu College of Calcutta**. These thinkers were also known by the name Derozians.
  - This name was given to them after one teacher of the same college, **Henry Louis Vivian Derozio**.
- Derozio **promoted radical ideas** through his teaching and by organizing an association for debate and discussions on literature, philosophy, history and science.
  - They cherished the ideals of the **French Revolution (1789 A.D.)** and the liberal thinking of Britain.
  - The Derozians also **supported women's rights and education**.



- The main reason for their **limited success** was the **prevailing social condition** at that time, which was not ripe for the adoption of radical ideas.
  - Further, **support from any other social group or class was absent.**
  - The Derozians **lacked any real link with the masses**, for instance, they failed to take up the peasants' cause.
  - In fact their radicalism was bookish in character. But, despite their limitations, the Derozians carried forward Roy's tradition of public education on social, economic, and political questions.

## What was the Ramakrishna Movement?

- **Ramakrishna Paramhansa** was a mystic who **sought religious salvation** in the traditional ways of renunciation, meditation and devotion.
- He was a saintly person who recognized the fundamental oneness of all religions and emphasized that there were many roads to God and salvation and the service of man is the service of God.
- The teaching of Ramakrishna Paramhansa formed the basis of the **Ramakrishna Movement**.
- **The two objectives of the movements were:**
  - To bring into existence a band of monks dedicated to a life of renunciation and practical spirituality, from among whom teachers and workers would be sent out to spread the Universal message of Vedanta as illustrated in the life of Ramakrishna.
  - In conjunction with lay disciples to carry on preaching, philanthropic and charitable works, looking upon all men, women and children, irrespective of caste, creed or color, as veritable manifestations of the Divine.
- **Swami Vivekananda** established Ramakrishna Mission in 1897, named after his Guru Swami Ramakrishna Paramhansa. The institution did extensive educational and philanthropic work in India.
  - He also represented India in the first Parliament of Religion held in Chicago (U.S.) in 1893.
- He used the Ramakrishna Mission for humanitarian relief and social work.
- The mission stands for religious and social reform. Vivekananda advocated the **doctrine of service- the service of all beings**.
  - The service of jiva( living objects) is the worship of Shiva. Life itself is religion.
  - By service, the Divine exists within man. Vivekananda was for using technology and modern science in the service of mankind.

## Mains Question

**Q.** What was the character of socio-religious reforms in the 19th century and how did they contribute to the national awakening in India?

**Q.** Characterize the main features of the Indian Renaissance?

**Q.** In what way did Ramakrishna infuse a new vigour and dynamism into Hinduism?

## Prelims Question

**Q.** Which of the following statements is/are correct about Raja Rammohan Roy?

1. He was in the opposition of inter-caste and inter-racial marriages.
2. He established a new religious society based on the twin pillars of 'reason' and 'the Vedas and Upanishads'.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

A. 1 only

**B. 2 only**

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.** Consider the following statements about Arya Samaj:

1. It believes in infallibility of Vedas and takes them as the only truth and source of all knowledge.
2. It accepted the Brahmanical dominance of spiritual and social life of Hindus.
3. It started the shuddhi movement to reconvert to the Hindu fold to those who were converted to Christianity and Islam.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

**A. 1 and 3 only**

B. 3 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

**Q.** Satya Shodhak Samaj organized

A. a movement for upliftment of tribals in Bihar

B. a temple-entry movement in Gujarat

**C. an anti-caste movement in Maharashtra**

D. a peasant movement in Punjab

## UPSC Civil Services Examination

### UPSC Notes [GS-I]

#### **Topic: The Moderate Phase of the Indian National Movement [Modern Indian History for UPSC]**

Indian nationalism arose in the latter half of the 19th century as a result of various factors like western education, socio-religious reforms, British policies and so on. In 1885, the Indian National Congress was formed which played a significant role in India's freedom movement.

The time period from 1885 to 1905 can be called the 'Moderate Phase'. The leaders of this phase are called moderates.

#### **The Indian National Congress (INC)**

- Formed in 1885 by Allan Octavian Hume, a retired British civil servant.
- Other founding members include Dadabhai Naoroji and Dinshaw Wacha.
- First session was held in Bombay under the presidency of Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee in 1885.
- First session was attended by 72 delegates from across the country.
- Viceroy of India at the time was Lord Dufferin who gave his permission to Hume for the first session.
- The Congress was formed with the intention of discussing problems faced by the people of the country irrespective of caste, creed, religion or language.
- It was basically a movement of the upper and middle class, western educated Indians in its moderate phase.
- Second session of the Congress was held in Calcutta in 1886 followed by the third in Madras in 1887.

#### **Moderate phase (1885 – 1905)**

- Moderate phase of the Congress (or the national movement) was dominated by the 'moderates'.
- They were people who believed in British justice and were loyal to them.

#### **Prominent moderate leaders**

Dadabhai Naoroji

- Known as the 'Grand old man of India.'
- He became the first Indian to become a member of the House of Commons in Britain.
- Authored 'Poverty and Un-British Rule in India' which focused on the economic drain of India because of British policies. This led to an enquiry on the matter.

Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee

- First president of the INC.
- Lawyer by profession. First Indian to act as Standing Counsel.

G Subramanya Aiyer

- Founded 'The Hindu' newspaper where he criticised British imperialism.
- Also founded Tamil newspaper 'Swadesamitran'.
- Co-founded the Madras Mahajana Sabha.

Gopal Krishna Gokhale

- Regarded as Mahatma Gandhi's political guru.
- Founded the Servants of India Society.

Sir Surendranath Banerjee

- Also called 'Rashtraguru' and 'Indian Burke'.
- Founded the Indian National Association which later merged with the INC.
- Cleared the Indian Civil Service but was discharged due to racial discrimination.
- Founded newspaper 'The Bengalee'.

Other moderate leaders included Rash Behari Ghosh, R C Dutt, M G Ranade, Pherozeshah Mehta, P R Naidu, Madan Mohan Malaviya, Ananda Charlu, S Subramania Iyer and William Wedderburn.

### Aims and demands of the moderates

- Education of the masses and organising public opinion, make people aware of their rights.
- Indian representation in the Executive Council and in the Indian Council in London.
- Reform of the legislative councils.
- Separation of the executive from the judiciary.
- Decreased land revenue tax and ending peasant oppression.
- After 1892, raised the slogan, "No taxation without representation."
- Reduced spending on the army.
- Abolishing salt tax and duty on sugar.
- Holding the ICS exam in India along with England to allow more Indians the opportunity to take part in the administration.
- Freedom of speech and expression.
- Freedom to form associations.
- Development of modern capitalist industries in India.
- End of economic drain of India by the British.
- Repealing the Arms Act of 1878.
- Increasing spending on education of Indians.

### Methods of the moderates

- They believed in peaceful and constitutional methods to demand and fulfil those demands.
- Used petitions, meetings, resolutions, pamphlets, memoranda and delegations to voice their demands.
- Their method has been called 3P – Prayers, Petition and Protest.
- Had complete faith in the British justice system.
- Confined to the educated classes only. Did not try to employ the masses.
- They aimed only at getting political rights and self-government under British dominion.

### Successes of the moderates

- Indian Councils Act of 1892 was the first achievement of the INC.
- This Act increased the size of the legislative councils and also increased the proportion of non-officials in them.
- They were able to sow the seeds of nationalism in the people.
- They popularised ideals like democracy, liberty and equality.
- They exposed many draining economic policies of the British.
- Leaders like Gopal Krishna Gokhale and M G Ranade were social reformers too and opposed child marriage and imposed widowhood.

### Limitations of the moderates

- This phase of the national movement excluded the masses and only the educated elites participated in it.
- They did not demand complete independence from foreign rule.
- They did not understand the power of a mass movement of people unlike Gandhi who used this power.
- Drew most of their ideas from western political thinking which further alienated them from the people.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination

### UPSC Notes [GS-I]

#### Topic: NCERT Notes: Indian National Movement – Extremist Period

In the beginning of the 20th century, a new class of national leaders emerged in India which was different from the moderate group. They took a more aggressive stance against the British Empire. They were typically younger and did not believe in the soft and persuasive approach of moderate leaders.

This is an important topic for UPSC and is also relevant for different [government exams](#).

The extremist phase of Indian nationalism is from 1905 to 1920.

#### Background/Causes of the rise of extremism

- The failure of the moderate leaders in getting any significant results from the British authorities.
- The limitations of the moderates were the main causes of the rise of extremism.
- The partition of Bengal in 1905 opened the eyes of the Indians to the true colours of the British rulers.
- Lord Curzon and his disdain for anything Indian also created resentment and anger against the foreigners.
- There was a fear among some leaders that the moderates with their westernized notions were trying to create an India in the image of the West.
- There was a revival of national pride at that time.
- The extremist leaders were also influenced by the growth of spiritual nationalism at that time.
- The Delhi Durbar held in 1903 when people had not fully recovered from the horrific effects of the famine that killed lakhs of people drew widespread condemnation.
- Events happening around the world also inspired the extremist leaders. Abyssinia's successful repulsion of the Italian army in 1896 and Japan's defeat of Russia in 1905 shattered the notion of European invincibility.
- Other national movements like in Persia, Egypt and Turkey also motivated the Indian leaders.

#### Surat Split

- The differences between the moderates and the extremists became official in the Surat session of the Indian National Congress (INC) in 1907.
- The meeting was to take place in Nagpur that year. The extremists wanted Lala Lajpat Rai or Bal Gangadhar Tilak to be the President. But the moderates wanted Rash Behari Ghosh as President.

There was a rule that the session's President could not be from the home province. Tilak's home province was Bombay Presidency in which Surat was also situated. So, the moderates changed the venue to Surat so that Tilak could be excluded from the presidency.

- The moderates also wanted to drop the resolutions on swadeshi, boycott movements and national education.
- Rash Behari Ghosh became the president in the session which was held at Surat.
- Tilak was not even allowed to speak and this angered the extremists, who wanted to cancel the session.
- Both sides were firm on their demands and neither was willing to find a common path.
- The moderates then held a separate meeting in which they reiterated the Congress goal of self-government within the British Empire and to adopt only constitutional methods to achieve their goals.
- Unfortunately, the Surat session was marred by the use of sticks and chappals by the members on one another.

### Methods of Extremist Leaders

- The extremist goal was 'swaraj'. This, at that time either meant complete autonomy and freedom from British control, or a total Indian control over the administration but not necessarily a breakaway from Britain's imperial reign.
- This was in contrast to the moderates' demand of only an increase in the share of Indians in the administration and military upper echelons.
- The extremist leaders involved wider sections of people in the movement. They involved lower middle class people also.
- They did not stick to constitutional methods to protest and demand. They resorted to boycotts, strikes, etc. They also burned foreign-made goods.
- They believed in confrontation rather than persuasion.
- The Swadeshi movement gathered momentum in India because of the extremists' support. This led to the establishment of Indian banks, mills, factories, etc.
- They were strongly against British imperialistic policies in India.
- They took pride in Indian culture and history. They looked at the ancient scriptures for inspiration and courage.
- They believed in sacrificing everything including life for the cause of the motherland.
- They opposed westernisation of Indian society by the British.
- Tilak famously said, "Swaraj is my birth right and I shall have it."
- They were very vocal in their opposition to the British rule unlike the moderates who had faith in British justice.
- They tried to instill self-respect and patriotism in the people by invoking past heroes like Ashoka, Shivaji, Maharana Pratap and Rani Laxmibai.
- They did not believe in loyalty to the British Crown.

## Extremist leaders

- Lala Lajpat Rai, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal (the first three called Lal-Bal-Pal leading the extremist cause in Punjab, Bombay and Bengal respectively.)
- Other leaders included Aurobindo Ghosh, Rajnarayan Bose, A K Dutt, V O C Pillai.

## Government reaction to extremists

- The government attacked the extremist leaders vigorously.
- Laws were passed to check their activities and influence. The following laws were passed between 1907 and 1911: Seditious Meetings Act, 1907; Indian Newspapers (Incitement to Offences) Act, 1908; Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908; and the Indian Press Act, 1910.
- Tilak was sentenced and served in prison in Mandalay (Burma) for writing in support of revolutionaries who were involved in the killing of two British women (their original target was a British magistrate).

## Impact of the Extremist Period

- Bal Gangadhar Tilak organized Ganpati and Shivaji festival to spread the message of boycotting westernization in India. This was a major social reform and had a larger impact on society.
- The slogan "Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it" by Tilak was the talk of society.
- British goods and national education was boycotted which brought a major change in the economy of the country and gave way to employment and various other opportunities for the Indians.
- There was a major reform in education across the country as the extremists worked on establishing National universities free from government control.



**The Extremist Phase of Indian National Movement was from 1905 to 1920.** Extremist leaders were a new generation of younger politicians who did not believe in soft persuasion and resorted to forceful and open opposition. They worked restlessly towards establishing 'Swaraj' and achieving freedom. The Extremist Phase of the Indian National Congress was a turning point in India's fight for freedom. It united the nation and instilled a strong sense of patriotism in the general public.

Extremist leaders played an important role in the freedom struggle. Their ideology emerged in the early 20th century as a result of moderates' failure to achieve autonomy from the government. Extremists emerged as an inclusive class of leaders whose ideology was rooted in Indian culture and values. They vehemently opposed the westernization of India and worked towards achieving economic and spiritual freedom from the British.

### Extremist Phase (1905 to 1920)

**Extremist Movement in India began in 1905 after the dissatisfaction caused by the failure of methods employed by the moderates.** Moderate leaders were not able to produce any positive results from their negotiations with the British. Their aversion towards radical views led to the rise of extremism in India which aimed to bring out the reality of British atrocities in front of the general public. Extremism was rooted in employing aggression to resist British oppression and establish '[Swaraj](#)' which will belong to the people of the nation.

- The extremist phase was a result of British contempt for Indians which created resentment among extremist leaders.
- There was also a suspicion that moderates were trying to westernize the nation and build it in Britain's image.
- The extremist movement in India led to a revival of national pride. Extremist leaders were aggressive but were also impacted by the spiritual notions of that time.
- The extremist period of the [Indian National Movement](#) was also influenced by Japan's defeat of Russia and the loss of Italy in Abyssinia.
- The aim of extremists was to rid India of British rule by following radical methods which moderates failed to do.

### Extremist Leaders of India

Bipin Chandra Pal, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, and Lala Lajpat Rai were the three major extremist leaders who were leading the movement in Bengal, Bombay, and Punjab. These three came to be known as Lal-Bal-Pal as they gained recognition and popularity for their efforts. Apart from these three, there were also other extremist freedom fighters who believed in the use of force and aggression to get rid of British rule. The complete list of extremist leaders of India is provided below.

- Lala Lajpat Rai
- Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- Bipin Chandra Pal
- A K Dutt
- Aurobindo Ghosh

- Rajnarayan Bose
- V O C Pillai

## Extremist Movement in India – History

The movement for Indian freedom began in 1885 with the establishment of the Indian National Congress. Initially, INC leaders were known as **moderates**. They believed in constitutional methods and their demands were more representation of Indians in the army and administration. However, their demands fell on deaf ears. Their failure to produce a positive response from the British led to the emergence of a new group of leaders, extremists, who opposed the persuasive ways of the moderates. This group of extremist leaders was formed because of a combination of circumstances that include.

- Moderates and their failure to achieve any sense of autonomy from the British.
- The Russian Revolution excited extremists as it was able to overthrow the Czar.
- Discrimination against Indians in South Africa.
- Partition of Bengal in 1905 revealed the true nature of the British government to Indians.

## Role of Extremists in Indian National Movement

The methods used during the extremist phase of **Indian National Movement** were aggressive and radical in nature. The extremist leaders did not believe in diplomacy and strongly opposed the discrimination against Indians in their own land. The goal of the extremists was to establish 'Swaraj' and gain autonomy. They wanted freedom from the British Raj and a right to exercise control over the decision-making concerning India. To achieve this end goal, various methods were employed that are listed below,

- **Extremist methods were in complete contrast with the methods of moderates.** Where moderates only demanded an increased share of Indians in the administration and military, the extremist leaders demanded full autonomy. Unlike moderates, extremists did not believe in the British administration.
- The extremist leaders belonged to a wide section of society. From the upper class to the lower-middle class, the wide array of people involved helped bring important issues to the forefront.
- Extremists employed various methods of protesting that deviated from constitutional methods. They organized boycotts, strikes, and demonstrations where they also burned foreign goods.
- Extremist methods involved confrontation. They demanded instead of persuading. They were strongly against the imperialistic laws and rule of the British.
- Extremists established various banks and factories with the aim of furthering the scope of the **Swadeshi movement**.
- Extremist leaders of India were proud of Indian culture and history and showed it by opposing the westernization of the country. They often referred to the ancient scriptures and used their lessons for inspiration.

- They worshipped the motherland and believed in sacrificing everything including life for its cause. They invoked and popularised past heroes like Rani Laxmibai, Shivaji and Ashoka to instil a stronger feeling of patriotism among the general public.

## Methods of Extremist Leaders

The extremist leader's working method differed from the moderate because it was based on self-confidence and self-sacrifice. The main program of extremism was-

- Swaraj
- Swadeshi
- National Education
- Boycott of a foreign institution

The Extremist leader had no conviction in the imperial British government. They always emphasize opposing the government by a method of passive resistance, mass movement, and refusal of everything related to the imperial government.

This leader tried to use their own cultural and social symbols, festivals, meals, etc., to cement the growing tendency of nationalism. Tilak organized Ganpati Mahotsav and Shivaji Mahotsav; Aurobindo created an energetic spirit over youth through Kali Puja. At the same time, these leaders also took inspiration from the song of Rabindranath Tagore, 'Amar Sonar Bangla,' as well as the painting of Arvind Nath Tagore.

Unlike moderate leaders, extremist leaders' demands were based on legitimate rights. They thought that without making this organization, strong their demands for Swaraj, Swadeshi, and national education could not be promoted.

## Rise of Extremism in India

The extremist period in Indian National Movement began in the early 20th century for various reasons. The British rule compromised various values of Indian society which extremist leaders aggressively opposed. The other reasons for the rise of extremism in India are listed below.

- In the late 1980s, India went through famine and plagues. The British government was not supportive of the suffering Indians and left them feeling completely helpless during the tough times which led to rising resentment. The Organisation of Delhi Durbar only aggravated these matters.
- There was also rampant unemployment which led to further discontent among the public, especially extremists.
- One of the major reasons for the extremist phase was also the discontent of the young Congress with the failure of moderates in achieving equality or a semblance of it from the British. The moderate methods were criticized and the extremist leaders of the Indian National Congress considered them a failure.
- Dadabhai Naoroji's views and expressions brought out the reality of British exploitation of economic resources to the forefront. People started to realize that the reason for their poverty was the British administration.

- As people became more educated and were exposed to western thoughts and philosophies, they began to realize important ideals of democracy and freedom. It was akin to the enlightenment era where the harm done to India by the British became more apparent and urged people to oppose it.
- People realized that they did not have enough freedom and that the laws of the time were highly discriminatory in nature. Extremists oppose these discriminatory practices and demand equal treatment.

## Impact of Extremist Movement in India

Extremism in India had a significant impact on the general public. Their efforts materialized in a renewed vigor to fight for [India's independence](#). They were successful in invoking a sense of pride in being an Indian in many people who began embracing their cultural values over British ideals.

- Bal Gangadhar Tilak spread cultural values by organizing Ganpati and Shivaji festivals. This had a large impact and many people started boycotting the westernization of India.
- He also gave Indians the popular slogan, "Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it" which was used widely and motivated people to keep fighting for the 'Swaraj.'
- There was a nationwide boycott of British goods. People burnt these goods as a sign of their protest and started relying on the goods produced by their own countrymen.
- ***There were various changes brought in the economy as extremists learned from the example of Japan how economic independence can be achieved without foreign influence.*** As a result of their efforts, many people found employment and stability.
- People also boycotted national education imposed by the British. Extremists worked to transform the education system by establishing universities that were free from government control.

## Limitation of the Extremist Phase

The following were the limitations faced during the Extremist Phase of the Indian Independence Movement.

- Though extremism demanded Swaraj as a new goal of a national movement, the definition of Swaraj by extremist leaders was unclear. For example, Aurobindo Ghosh's Swaraj' meant complete Independence from foreign rule, but for Tilak, it was a kind of self-government under the British framework.
- Although the extremist leader opposed the moderates for not creating any mass movement but failed to create a mass movement, the social base of Congress led them couldn't bring the rural people within the radius of their ideology.
- The extremist leader, by their energetic and emotional appeal, created a new zeal among the people, but they failed to translate them into reality; revisionary activism came to emerge that was believing in bombs, pistols, and the assassination of famous English officers.
- Since all these extremist leaders started taking inspiration from the cultural legacy of Hinduism, the isolation of Muslims and Communalism started gaining momentum, and the British Empire instigated it.
- Like moderate, their ideology was not fundamental. They failed to provide a classic analysis like the drain of wealth theory.

## Moderates vs Extremists: Surat Split

Moderates and Extremists have always been different in their ideology and methods. However, during the Surat session of the Indian National Congress (1907) this difference became more prominent and led to a split. Both extremists and moderates wanted their own leaders to become the president of INC. To ensure Bal Gangadhar Tilak could not become the President, moderates moved the venue of the meeting to Surat which was in Tilak's home province. This excluded him from the list as the president cannot be from the home province of the session. This led to great discontent.

In addition to this, moderates were also planning to drop any resolutions concerning the Swadesh movement. As moderates excluded extremist leaders, the discontent during the conference only grew and led to a split between both groups. The [Surat Split](#) is signified by both the groups being insulting towards each other and extremist leaders ultimately choosing to follow their own path and segregating themselves from the moderates.

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# Partition of Bengal

The **partition of Bengal** took place on October 16, 1905, under the administration of Viceroy Lord Curzon, resulting in the Bengal partition into Eastern Bengal and Western Bengal. The states of Bihar & Bengal, including some regions of Orissa, Chhattisgarh, and Assam, were all part of the Bengal Presidency. With 78.5 million inhabitants, it was British India's largest district. For many decades, British officials argued that the province's immense size made it difficult to handle the process and led to the marginalization of the poorer eastern part. As a result, the Bengal division was only suggested for administrative purposes.

Lord Curzon intended to split Bihar & Orissa and unite fifteen of Bengal's eastern provinces into Assam. The capital of an eastern province was Dhaka, with a populace of 31 million people, the bulk of whom was Muslims. After the partition of Bengal, Curzon stated that he considered the new region Muslim. Instead of dividing Hindus and Muslims, Lord Curzon wanted to split Bengalis. The other province was composed of Orissa, Bihar, and the Western Districts. Bengali speakers are now in the minority due to the merger of western Bengal with Orissa and Bihar. Muslims favoured division, commanded by Dhaka's Nawab Sallimullah, while Hindus opposed it. Indians were persuaded that the partition of Bengal was caused by the large population, which made administration difficult for the British. However, the British's true objective was to destabilize the nerve core of nationalism (Bengal) in order to protect their interests. The people overwhelmingly rejected this. Militant nationalism arose as a result of the partition of Bengal.

## Causes of Partition of Bengal

On October 16, 1905, Lord Curzon, the British ruler of India at that time, partitioned Bengal. For administrative regions, the division was promoted; Bengal was the same size as France but had a much larger population. The eastern region was viewed as being poorly governed and unappreciated. A more robust government could be established in the East by splitting the province, resulting in more local educational facilities and job opportunities. The partition of Bengal plan, however, was carried out for various reasons, which are as follows:

- After Curzon declared the partition of Bengal, there was significant political unrest throughout the region.
- Many Bengalis thought that this division was just an insult to our country. So there was a loud call for Bengal's reunification. The iconic song "Amar Sonar Bangla," written by Rabindranath Tagore, served as Bangladesh's flag and anthem.
- The Indian National Congress condemned this attempt to partition the province along race lines.
- The bulk of Bengalis in the west rejected the change as it would have rendered them a minority tongue within their province. The majority of Bangladeshis will speak Hindi or Odia.
- Many Bengali Muslims supported this move since they thought that if they became the majority in the new province, this would advance their academic, economic, and political interests.
- Furthermore, Curzon promised to build a university in Dhaka. Furthermore, this was seen as an opportunity for Muslims to advance their education or improve their living standards.
- The remaining part of the nation primarily opposed the partition of Bengal. The people revealed the British govt's "divide and rule" strategy.



- The primary objective of such a separation was to sever connections between the two communities and weaken patriotic feelings in the nation. A few Muslims also rejected the separation.
- As a result of this Bengal partition, the Swadeshi and Boycott organizations in the nationalist fight were formed.
- Individuals have begun to avoid British goods since they are highly saturated in India and harm the city's industry.
- Significant religious fracturing of the country led to the creation of the Muslim League around the year 1906.

## Features of Partition of Bengal

In December 1903, the British administration decided on the partition of Bengal. Lord Curzon, the Governor of India at that time, was the individual who made this decision. In Bengal, there are two provinces:

- The first was Bengal, which included Orissa, Bihar, and Western Bengal regions.
- Eastern Bengal & Assam came second.

While Eastern Bengal chose Dacca as its capital, Bengal retained Calcutta just like its city centre.

The true motive for partition of Bengal was a wish to weaken the state, which had been the epicentre of Indian nationalism in the early twentieth century. With a populace of 78 million, Bengal was split because it had grown difficult to control.

- Linguistic rationale: Making Bengalis a minority within Bengal. The new proposal for Bengal includes thirty-seven million Hindi and Oriya speakers in the top seventeen million Bengalis.
- Based on religion, the western Bengal area had a Hindu majority, while the eastern Bengal area had a Muslim majority.

Lord Curzon made a concerted effort to win the Muslims. As a result, he believes that Dacca may be selected as the new province's capital, giving the Muslim population a sense of unity. To fight the Congress and the national movement, the British thus tried to cultivate Muslim communalists.

## Annulment of Partition of Bengal

There were various reasons which led to the annulment of the partition of Bengal, which are given here. Due to widespread political opposition, the partition was declared unlawful in 1911. Rather than dividing the Bengal province based on religious lines, the division was made on the linguistic base. Orissa and Bihar were formed as the two new provinces. Assam was split into separate states.

- Incapable of quashing the protests, the authorities decided the reverse the divide.
- On 12<sup>th</sup> December 1911, King George V. announced the inclusion of eastern Bengal into the Bengal Presidency at the Delhi Durbar.
- While Assam, Bihar, & Orissa were divided, areas, where Bengali was being spoken stayed united.
- Lord Hardinge upturned the partition of Bengal in 1911. It was taken out in response to riots against the policy prompted by the Swadeshi movement.
- The move of the capital to New Delhi was intended to give the British colonial administration a more substantial base.
- Muslims in Bengal were shocked as they had presumed that the administration would protect their interests, considering the majority of Muslims in East Bengal.

- They viewed this as the state prioritising Hindu concerns above Muslim ones to please Hindus and ease administrative duties.
- Muslim leaders objected to the Bengal division. Leading Muslims began to see establishing the Muslim-majority districts, Eastern Bengal, including Assam, as advantageous.
- Muslims suffered backwardness in the United Bengal era, especially in Eastern Bengal. Therefore, it was deemed meddling to protest against division on behalf of Hindus in a Muslim region.
- The Britishers attempted to pacify angry Bengali Muslims at losing eastern Bengal by relocating the headquarters to a Mughal site.
- Despite its annulment, the partition of Bengal didn't result in a cultural separation between Hindus & Muslims.

## Partition of Bengal and Swadeshi Movement

Bengali Hindus were at the forefront of the political movement for increased participation in governance, but their position would be weakened as Muslims now rule the East. As a result, Hindus tended to be used against partition of Bengal, which Muslims supported more.

However, what happened after Bengal partition prompted a nearly national anti-British movement that included boycotts, a death attempt against the ruler of a new West Bengal province, and quiet and violent protests.

Before it was deemed invalid in 1911, the partition of Bengal had barely lasted five years. However, the consequences of Britain's Divide Et Imperia policy, which was the source of division, remained in the united province. Parallel elections for Muslims and Hindus were established in 1919. Many individuals from both groups had argued for the past unification of Bengalis as a nation. Now, diverse communities with individual political agendas have begun to emerge.

Due to their estimated twenty-eight to twenty-two million inhabitants, Muslims also dominated the Legislature. Nationwide, Hindus and Muslims began calling for establishing two independent states, one in areas with most Hindus and one in regions with a predominance of Muslims; the majority of Bengali Hindus now advocate partition of Bengal on this basis.

The Muslims wanted the entire province to be a part of Pakistan, the Islamic state. Bengal partition happened again in 1947, this time precisely because of religion. East Pakistan was established. However, East Pakistan formed the independent state of Bangladesh in 1971 for cultural reasons. While partition of Bengal may occasionally be essential as a pragmatic measure to prevent bloodshed, this usually generates new issues which further split society.

Dissatisfaction among minorities on both sides of the border is almost always brought on by partition. The Bengal partition ensued in bloodshed, destroyed lives, and divided the world.



***Morley Minto Reforms were a set of political reforms introduced in India in 1909 during British rule.***

The aim of the reforms was to increase the representation of Indians in the Indian Councils and the governance of India at large. Also referred to as the Indian Council Act 1909, the reforms were introduced by the British Secretary of State for India, Lord Morley, and were passed with the support of Lord Minto, the Viceroy of India at the time.

Furthermore, the reforms allowed the creation of separate electorates for Muslims and the appointment of Indians to the executive council of the Viceroy. The concept of a separate electorate was also introduced under Morley Minto reforms making it a significant act in Indian History. Hence, Morley Minto reforms is an essential topic for aspirants planning to take the Civil Services exam.

What is Morley Minto Reforms?

The Morley Minto Reforms 1909 or Govt of India Act 1909 were introduced to appease the Congress and introduce a separate electorate based on religion. The legislative council was expanded to include Indian members. Go through the major highlights of Minto Morley Reforms for the upcoming exam.

#### **Morley Minto Reforms - Government of India Act 1909**

Morley Minto Reforms Date	12 March 1909
The 1909 Act was introduced by	The British Parliament
	The Indian Council Act 1909 introduced communal representation and a separate electorate in Indian politics.
The objective of Morley Minto Reforms	The size of the legislative councils was increased.
	For the first time, the association of Indians with the executive councils of the Viceroy and Governors.
Morley Minto Reforms Governor-General	The Earl of Minto
Morley Minto Reforms amended	the Indian Councils Acts of 1861 and 1892 were amended.

Importance of Indian Council Act 1909	Responsible for the association of elected Indians with the administration.
	Indians got an opportunity to criticize the executives and make suggestions for better administration of the country.
Territories Affected	Territories under British possession in India. U

## Background of Morley Minto Reforms

The Morley Minto Reforms 1909 were a response to the growing Indian nationalism and calls for greater representation in the governance of India. They marked a turning point in Indian history and paved the way for more substantial reforms and movements for the independence of India.

With these reforms, there was a hike in the size of the legislative councils at the center and provincial levels. Hence, the Minto Morley reforms were one of the most notable ordinances that were passed by the British parliament.

## Provisions of Indian Council Act 1909

The Indian Councils Act 1909, also known as the Morley-Minto Reforms, made several key provisions, such as:

- ***The act increased the number of elected members in the Imperial Legislative Council and the Provincial Legislative Councils.***
- The act provided for the creation of separate electorates for Muslims, thereby giving them separate representation in the councils. This led to more participation from Muslim community.
- The Provision of Indian Council Act 1909 also provided for communal representation, meaning that seats were reserved for specific communities, such as Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, and Anglo-Indians.
- The reforms played a key role in achieving a greater representation of Indians in the governance of their country.
- Lord Minto came to be known as the Father of the Communal Electorate.

## Importance of Morley Minto Reforms

The Minto Morley reforms were considered a significant step in the Indian freedom struggle. In fact, it is believed they marked a beginning of a new era for India. Thus, the importance of the reforms can be highlighted through a number of points, including:

- **Political Representation:** The reforms marked the first time that Indians were given any meaningful representation in the governance of their own country. This was seen as a significant step forward in the struggle for greater [Indian independence](#).
- **Rise of Nationalism:** The Minto Morley reforms 1909 sparked a new wave of Indian nationalism, as Indians became more politically aware. This was especially true for Muslims, who were given separate electorates under the reforms and became more politically active as a result.
- **Hindu-Muslim Divide:** The creation of separate electorates for Muslims under the Morley Minto Reforms is seen as a major contributing factor to the division between Hindus and Muslims from then on. This divide would have lasting impacts on Indian politics and society at large.

## Features of Indian Council Act 1909

The Morley Minto reforms 1909 had several key features and played a critical role in the history of India and its freedom struggle. We have provided the important features in a tabulated manner for your reference below.

- Objectives of Morley Minto reforms such as the Indian Council Act 1909 introduced increased communal representation and a separate electorate to Indian politics.
- For the first time, the association of Indians with the executive councils of the Viceroy and Governors.
- The size of the legislative councils was increased.
- The date of the Morely Minto reforms is 12th March 1909.

- The impact of the reforms was that it gave Indians an opportunity to criticize the executives and make suggestions for better administration and governance of the country.
- The limitation of the Morley Minto reforms was no real transfer of power from the British government to the Indians. Hence, it was a limited step that only added a token representation of Indians in the legislative council.
- The Governor-General of the Indian Council Act was the Earl of Minto.

### Analysis of Minto Morley Reforms

The ***Minto Morley Reforms, also known as the Indian Council Act of 1909, were instituted to increase the representation of Indians in the legislative councils.*** The reforms can be assessed through the following points:

- The reforms were a response to the growing need for better representation of Indians in the governance of India.
- The reforms provided separate electorates for Muslims, which sparked a new wave of Indian nationalism but also added to the Hindu-Muslim divide in the country.
- They increased the number of elected members in the legislative councils, but the councils remained largely powerless.
- The British government still maintained control over the administration of India and there was no real transfer of power.

### Defects of Morley Minto Reforms

Although the ***Morley Minto reforms were seen as a milestone for the Indian independence movement, they weren't completely successful.*** This is because despite the reforms, the legislative councils remained powerless and there was no significant transfer of power from the British to the Indians.

Furthermore, the powers of the legislative council did not include the right to make any laws. Hence, ultimately, it was the British government that

still controlled the Indian administration. So, we can conclude that the Indian Council Act 1909 was only a limited step that did not generate any great impact on Indian politics, which was the biggest defect of the Morley Minto reforms 1909.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination

### UPSC Notes [GS-I]

#### Topic: Simon Commission - NCERT Notes on UPSC Modern Indian History

The Simon Commission was a group of 7 MPs from Britain who was sent to India in 1928 to study constitutional reforms and make recommendations to the government. The Commission was originally named the Indian Statutory Commission. It came to be known as the Simon Commission after its chairman Sir John Simon.

Important for [IAS Exam](#), this topic is a part of Modern Indian History. This article will provide relevant information about the Simon Commission from both prelims and mains perspectives.

#### Simon Commission – Background

It was [Government of India Act 1919](#) that announced that in 10 years from 1919, a royal commission will be set up to report on the working of the act. Read the points below to understand the background of the Simon Commission:

- Diarchy was introduced in India by the Government of India Act 1919. The Act also promised that a commission would be appointed after 10 years to review the working and progress made on the measures taken through the Act.
- The Indian people and leaders wanted a reform of the diarchy form of government.
- The Conservative Party-led government in the UK feared a defeat at the hands of the Labour Party in the elections due, and so hastened the appointment of a commission in 1928 even though it was due only in 1929 as per the 1919 Act.
- The Commission was composed entirely of British members with not a single Indian member being included in it. This was seen as an insult to Indians who were right in saying that their destiny could not be determined by a handful of British people.
- The Secretary of State for India, Lord Birkenhead had berated Indians on account of their perceived inability to formulate a concrete scheme of reforms through consensus among all sections of the Indian political scene.
- Lord Birkenhead was responsible for setting up the Commission.
- Clement Atlee was a member of the Commission. He would later become Britain's Prime Minister during Indian independence and partition in 1947.

#### Why was Simon Commission boycotted?

##### Indian Response:

- Indians were outraged at their exclusion from the Commission.
- The Congress Party decided to boycott the Commission at their session at Madras in 1927.

- The Muslim League led by M A Jinnah also boycotted it. A certain section of members led by Muhammad Shafi supported the government.
- The Justice Party in the South decided to side with the government on this issue.
- When the Commission landed in February 1928, there were mass protests, hartals and black flag demonstrations all over the country.
- People were chanting the slogan, 'Simon Go Back.'
- The police resorted to lathi charges to suppress the movement. Even senior leaders like Pandit Nehru were not spared.
- In Lahore, [Lala Lajpat Rai](#), who was leading the demonstration against the Simon Commission, was brutally lathi-charged. He died later that year due to injuries sustained then.
- Dr. [B R Ambedkar](#) had submitted a report on behalf of the Bahishkita Hitakarini Sabha on the education of the depressed classes in the Bombay Presidency.

## Impact of the Simon Commission

- The Commission's report was published in 1930. Before the publication, the government assured that henceforth, Indian opinion would be considered and that the natural outcome of constitutional reforms would be dominion status for India.
- It recommended the abolition of diarchy and the setting-up of representative governments in the provinces.
- It also recommended the retention of separate communal electorates until the communal tensions had died down.
- The Simon Commission led to the [Government of India Act 1935](#) which acted as the basis for many parts of the current Indian Constitution.
- The first provincial elections were held in 1937 and it saw Congress governments being set up in almost all the provinces.
- The arrival of the Commission gave an impetus to the Indian independence movement by galvanizing leaders and masses.

Simon Commission is an important topic for Modern Indian History syllabus. Aspirants preparing for [UPSC 2020](#) should carefully read the facts about the commission.

# Nehru Report UPSC Notes

The Nehru Report 1928 suggested new status for India as a sole dominion under the British administration only. Additionally, a central government was to be established for the Indian constitution, and joint elections with seats designated for minorities were to be designed. The Nehru report was created by the All Parties Conference. The president was Motilal Nehru, and the secretary was Jawaharlal Nehru, his son. There were nine further members of the committee.

## History of Nehru Report 1928

The history of the Nehru report is traced back to the time when the British government established the Simon Commission in November 1927 to examine the functioning of the Indian government. Additionally, he was tasked with providing constitutional amendments for India.

Numerous politicians rebelled against the Simon Commission because there were no Indian members of the commission.

- Indians, particularly the Congress Party, fiercely opposed the Simon Commission when it visited India in 1928 since there wasn't a solitary Indian on the commission.
- Lord Birkenhead, the Secretary of State for India, tacitly implied that Indians were unable to forge a consensus and design a constitution by challenging Indian leaders to do so.
- The political leaders agreed to take on this problem, and an All-Party Conference was organised with the responsibility of creating a constitution assigned to a committee.
- Motilal Nehru served as the chairman of this committee, and Jawaharlal Nehru served as the secretary. Ali Imam, Tej Bahadur Sapru, Mangal Singh, M. S. Aney, Subhas Chandra Bose, Shuaib Qureshi, and G. R. Pradhan were additional members.
- The Nehru Committee Report, also known as the Nehru Report was the name given to the committee's new constitution. On August 28, 1928, the report was presented during the all-party conference's Lucknow session.
- This was the Indian people's first significant attempt at drafting their own constitution.
- The British left the commission unchanged even after the uprising. Instead, they requested that the Indians drafted the constitution on their own. '...let the Indians establish a constitution which carries behind it a fair degree of broad agreement among the great peoples of India,' said Lord Birkenhead, Secretary of State for India.
- The Nehru report 1928 is the outcome of many nationalists accepting this challenge. In response to the Simon Commission, the Indian National Congress took the following two actions:
  - Congress did not assist the Commission in any way.
  - The All Parties Conference was established by Congress to design the Indian Constitution.

## Nehru Report Recommendations

A number of issues were raised in the Nehru Report 1928, like 19 essential rights, including the ability to vote for men and women over 21 without being barred. Equal citizenship rights for men and women. no official religion. No community has its own electorate. Following are some important Nehru Report recommendations in detail:

- To have the status of dominion status for India within the British Commonwealth, similar to Canada, Australia, etc. This issue caused friction with the younger generation of



politicians, which favoured total independence and included Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhas Chandra Bose.

- There are 19 important rights, including the ability to vote for men and women over 21 without being barred.
- The Nehru report recommended providing equal citizenship rights for men and women.
- No official religion.
- No community has its own electorate. Minority seats were reserved, as stated. It stipulated that seats for Muslims would be reserved in the centre and in regions where they were a minority, but not in Bengal or Punjab. The NWFP, also allowed for non-Muslim reservations.
- A centralized form of governance leaves the centre with some authority. A bicameral legislature would be located in the middle. The legislature would be the ministry's boss.
- The constitutional ruler of India will be the governor-general. He would be chosen by the British king or queen.
- A suggestion was added in the Nehru report to establish a Supreme Court.
- The provinces would be divided according to language.
- Indian would be the official language, and it would be written in Devanagari (Sanskrit/Hindi), Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Bengali, Marathi, or Gujarati. English usage is authorised.

## Muslim League Response to Nehru Report

Community representation was a contentious topic. Numerous Muslim leaders met Motilal Nehru in Delhi in December 1927 and made a few recommendations for the Nehru report. At its Madras session, Congress approved them. These so-called "Delhi Proposals" were-

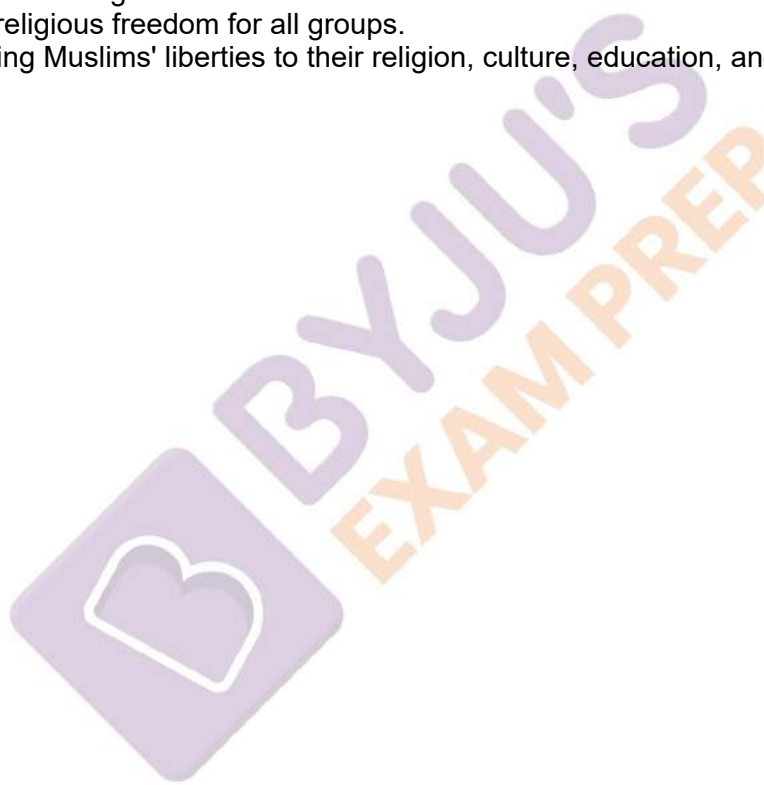
- The 1916 Congress-Muslim League accord gave the Muslim minority separate electorates and importance, but the Nehru Report rejected these provisions. Muslims realised that they would always be a minority at the Centre even though they would be the majority in India's North-East and North-West regions, where they would dominate the regional legislature.
- They thus asked that residuary powers be transferred to the provinces, which was against the recommendations of the Nehru Report. Muslims should make up at least 13 of the Central Legislature.
- Separate electorates should be offered, and communal group participation should persist. If a territorial distribution is taking place, it shouldn't negatively affect the Muslims living in the provinces of Punjab, and Bengal.
- If the bill is opposed by three-fourths of the members, no decision from the legislature must be produced. It is necessary to separate Sindh from Bombay.
- Balochistan will undergo reform. All Muslims should receive a fair share of all services.
- The Constitution should pay significant attention to the preservation of the Muslim religion, culture, education, charitable organisations, and personal laws.
- All Muslims are represented by one-third in both the national and provincial ministries. If amendments to the Constitution are required, their approval by the provinces is required.

## Jinnah 14 Points

The recommendations provided by the Nehru report were rejected outright by Mohammad Ali Jinnah and Muslim League. On the country, he provided 'Jinnah 14 points' on behalf of the Muslim League committee.

1. The federal government with some remaining provincial authority.

2. Provincial independence.
3. There can be no constitutional amendment without state approval.
4. Without lowering the Muslim majority in a province to equality or minorities, there should be enough Muslim representation in all legislatures and political bodies.
5. Muslims are adequately represented in the workforce and in self-governing entities.
6. Muslims make up a third of the Central Legislature's membership.
7. Muslims make up 1/3 of the state and federal cabinets.
8. Distinct electorates.
9. No law in any legislature may be approved if it is opposed by 3/4 of the minority community's members.
10. Any redistribution of territory that does not impact Bengal's, Punjab's, or the NWFP's Muslim majority.
11. Split between Sindh and the Bombay Presidency.
12. Constitutional changes in Baluchistan and the NWFP.
13. Complete religious freedom for all groups.
14. Safeguarding Muslims' liberties to their religion, culture, education, and language.



# Civil Disobedience Movement

## [UPSC Notes]

### What is the Civil Disobedience Movement?

The Civil Disobedience Movement began under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi's Dandi March. Gandhi in March 1930 left the Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmadabad on foot with 78 other Ashram members for Dandi, a village on India's western seacoast in Gujarat. They reached Dandi on April 6, 1930, where Gandhi broke the Salt Law. It was considered illegal to make salt in India as it was solely a British Government monopoly. The Salt Satyagraha led to the widespread acceptance of the Civil Disobedience Movement and the Salt March became symbolic of people's defiance of the British government policies.

### Civil Disobedience Movement: Background

After the Chauri Chaura incident of February 1922, there was an abrupt withdrawal of the Non-Cooperation Movement by Gandhi. As a result, there was a demoralising effect on many Congress leaders and led to a sharp decline in the national movement. The 'No Changer' group, remained scattered and kept themselves aloof from the political developments. The No Changer group emphasised Gandhian Constructive Work in villages. On top of this, there were widespread communal riots in the mid-1920s, due to the dissolution of Hindu-Muslim unity during the Non-Cooperation Khilafat days. Even though the Hindu-Muslim Unity was never regained, there were many signs of growth of the anti-imperialist movement from 1928 onwards. The negotiations with Jinnah over the Nehru Report plan for an alternative constitution broke down in 1927-28 largely because of Hindu Mahasabha opposition and Jinnah's obstinacy in relation to it.

The Lahore Congress of 1929 authorized the Congress Working Committee (CWC) to launch a programme of civil disobedience including non-payment of taxes. And in 1930, Gandhi was invested with full powers to launch the Civil Disobedience Movement at a time and place of his choice by the CWC, at Sabarmati Ashram.

These were some of the main reasons that paved the way for the Civil Disobedience Movement.

### What is Dandi March

Dandi March or the Salt March was an act of nonviolent civil disobedience led by Gandhi. It is also known by the name of Dandi Satyagraha. Gandhi started the movement on 12 March 1930 from his Sabarmati Ashram to Dandi beach, a coastal town of Dandi on the Arabian Sea. He was accompanied by his 78 selected followers. There Gandhi and his followers broke the law by manufacturing salt from the sea. The historic Dandi March, marked the beginning of the Civil Disobedience Movement in India. It began on March 12, 1930, and Gandhi broke the salt law by picking up a lump of salt at Dandi on April 6, 1930.

## Salt Satyagraha Movement

The Congress Session of Lahore, 1929 elected Jawaharlal Nehru as the President of Congress. A resolution announcing that full independence was India's goal was passed at this session of the Congress. India demanded full independence. Indians were excited and were looking upto Gandhi to be the torch bearer. Gandhi launched the Salt Satyagraha Movement.

The Civil Disobedience Movement began by breaking the salt law. The Government had put an excise tax on salt which brought an enormous amount of money to the treasury. The government had a monopoly on manufacturing salt. The India Salt Act of 1882 gave the government monopoly over the collection and manufacture of salt. The salt tax was to be attacked and salt laws were to be broken. The Salt Satyagraha ended on April 5 at Dandi village, where Gandhi gave a signal to all Indians to manufacture salt illegally. He wanted the people to break the salt law openly and to prepare themselves for non-violent resistance to police action.

Through the Salt Satyagraha Movement, the programme of the movement was:

- Salt law should be violated everywhere.
- Foreign clothes should be burnt.
- No taxes should be paid to the government.
- Students should leave colleges and government servants should resign from service.
- Women should stage a Dharna at liquor shops, etc.

## Importance of Salt during the Freedom Struggle

Before launching the Salt Satyagraha Movement, or the Civil Disobedience Movement Gandhi, for the last time tried to compromise. He placed his 'eleven points' of administrative reform and stated that if Lord Irwin accepted them there would be no need for agitation. The important demands were:

- The rupee-Sterling ratio should be reduced
- The salt tax should be abolished and also the government salt monopoly
- Salaries of the highest grade services should be reduced by half
- Military expenditure should be reduced by 50% to begin with
- Protection for Indian textiles and coastal shipping
- Land revenue should be reduced by half and made a subject of legislative control
- All Political prisoners should be discharged

The Indian National Congress would have preferred to fight against other laws like the land revenue laws, for example. But Gandhiji chose salt. Salt was a common item of consumption in every household, taxing salt would amount to taxing every section of the society. The salt was manufactured from saline seawater hence the imposition of heavy-duty was not only immoral but unfair to the poor. Thus salt was chosen, to symbolise a common man's defiance against the British rule that was increasingly becoming unethical and repressive in nature.

Gandhi followed a simple truth. Turn the mirror to the people and show them how they're being treated. And they will rise up along with you.

## Effects of Civil Disobedience Movement on different Provinces

After Gandhi's symbolic breaking of the salt laws at Dandi, defiance of the laws spread throughout the country. Salt laws were defied in various provinces as well, under the leadership of various leaders.

- The Salt Satyagraha was led by C Rajagopalachari in Tamil Nadu. He organised a march from Thiruchirapalli to Vedaranniyam on the Tanjore (or Thanjavur) coast to break the salt law.
- K Kelappan, famed for the Vaikom Satyagraha, organised salt marches in Malabar.
- Midnapur, Arambagh and several rural pockets witnessed powerful movements developed around salt satyagraha and chowkidar tax.
- Sarojini Naidu, Imam Sahib and Manilal (Gandhi's son) raided the Dharasana Salt Works.
- District salt marches were organized in East and West Godavari, Krishna and Guntur. A number of sibirams (military-style camps) were set up to serve as the headquarters of the Salt Satyagraha.
- In Peshawar, Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan, also called Badshah Khan and Frontier Gandhi, had started the first Pushto political monthly Pukhtoon and had organised a volunteer brigade 'Khudai Khidmatgars', popularly known as the 'Red-Shirts', who were pledged to the freedom struggle and non-violence.

## Civil Disobedience Movement: How Different Sections Responded to the Movement.

A novel and remarkable feature of the Civil Disobedience Movement was the widespread participation of women and the youth. Traders' associations and commercial bodies were active in implementing the boycott, especially in Tamil Nadu and Punjab. Middle-class Muslim participation was quite significant in Senhatta, Tripura, Gaibandha, Bagura and Noakhali. The weakest point of Nationalism during this point was Muslim participation, which remained low.

## Features of the Civil Disobedience Movement

The most striking features of the Civil Disobedience Movement were:

- Foreign clothes were boycotted and there were protests against the liquor shops.
- There was a large involvement of women and the youth during the movement. Kasturba Gandhi, Kamladevi Chattopadhyay, Avantikabai Gokhale, Lilavati Munshi, and Hansaben Mehta were some of the prominent female leaders who led the satyagraha movement.
- Peasants said no to the paying of revenue and chowkidari taxes, and village officials resigned from their posts.
- people not only disapproved of cooperating but also asked to break the colonial laws.
- In many places, forest people violated forest laws, going into Reserved Forests to collect wood and graze cattle.

## Drawbacks of the Civil Disobedience Movement



Though the Civil Disobedience Movement was a huge success and paved a way for the future independence movements in India, it had some drawbacks. These were:

- Dalits' participation in the Civil Disobedience movement was very limited, except in Maharashtra.
- Muslim political organizations in India were also Lukewarm in their response to the Civil Disobedience Movement.
- Congress was very close to Hindu Mahasabha. Hindus Mahasabha strongly opposed the efforts of compromise between Congress and the Muslim League.
- United struggle was not there. There was a contrast between the demands of industrialists and the working class and the rich peasants and poor peasants.



# State Reorganisation Commission

The historical events and conditions gave rise to the Indian states. More reasonable governmental change has been increasingly necessary since independence.

As per the State reorganisation commission, the Indian States were created by considering regional languages and monetary, industrial, and governmental administration.

- India had 27 states in 1951, divided into Parts A, B, C, and D.
  - Part A: The nine states in Part A included Assam, Orissa, West Bengal, Bihar, Punjab, Bombay, Madhya Pradesh (formerly Central Provinces and Berar), Madras, and Uttar Pradesh (previously United Provinces).
  - Part B: The nine states that made up Part B were Hyderabad, Jammu and Kashmir, Saurashtra, Mysore, Travancore-Cochin, Madhya Bharat, Vindhya Pradesh, Patiala and East Punjab States Union (PEPSU), and Rajasthan.
  - Part C: The ten Part C states included Delhi, Kutch, Himachal Pradesh, Bilaspur, Coorg, Bhopal, Manipur, Ajmer, Cooch-Bihar, and Tripura. Part C states included both the provinces of former Senior Commissioners as well as other centrally controlled regions, with the exception of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
  - Part D: The Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Part D) were a region that had a governor that the Indian President had chosen to lead it.
- The State reorganisation commission advocated merging the formerly Part B state of Hyderabad with Andhra and dividing the four types of states into two main categories: States and Union territories.
- **State Reorganisation Act:** In accordance with Article 4 of the Indian Constitution, the Parliament passed the State Reorganisation Act 1956 to give power to the modernization program.
- 7th Constitutional Amendment: On October 19, 1956, the Indian President assented to the 7th Constitutional Amendment, which was added to the Constitution to execute the States Reorganisation Act.
- Part A, Part B, and Part D states were abolished as a result of this modification, which also led to the designation of some territories as Union Territories and the creation of new states by changing the areas and borders of the states that were already in existence.
- There were 14 states instead of 27, thanks to the States Reorganisation Act 1956.
- Bombay, Andhra Pradesh As a consequence of state restructuring in 1956, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Mysore, Punjab, and Rajasthan were created as new states.

## Need for Reorganisation of States

In accordance with Article 3 of the Indian Constitution, Parliament passed the States Reorganisation Act 1956 to put into practice the reorganisation plan that resulted from an analysis of the Report's concepts.

- **Creation of Linguistic Regions:** The demand for state rearrangement and the formation of linguistic regions are commonly equated.

- **Regional Language Development:** This is because the push for the redistribution of British Indian provinces came about as a direct consequence of the remarkable growth of local languages in the 19th century.
- **Emotional Integration of Different Language Groups:** As a result, various language groups became emotionally integrated and began to recognise one another as unique cultural entities.
- **Linguistically identical Units:** The objective was envisaged and sought in terms of linguistically homogeneous units when progressive public sentiment in India crystallised in support of organizational unit rationalisation.
- **State Level Elevation:** By rearranging state boundaries by the state reorganisation commission, an area tries to raise itself to the status of a state so that it can benefit from the resources and privileges that it feels are withheld from it.
- **Rising Awareness Amongst Ethnic Minorities:** There is a growing awareness among ethnic minorities and a perception that they have shared traits that set them apart from the state's majority group.
- **Demand Consolidation is Simpler:** Minorities are constrained to a particular geographic area, making demand consolidation simpler.
- National minority communities that are upset acquire a perception of prejudice that is pervasive.
- **Financial Backwardness:** People in tense regions feel overlooked by the state administration because of the region's overall economic underdevelopment.
- **Limited Opportunities Available:** According to the sub-regional communities who are up in arms, they have fewer opportunities available to them than the majority of the state's citizens.
- When such movements are led by an accomplished and strong figure, they gather momentum.

## State Reorganisation Commission

The Federal Government of India established the States Reorganisation Commission (SRC) in August 1953 to make recommendations about the reorganisation of state borders. After two years of research, the Commission, which was made up of Justice Fazal Ali, K. M. Panikkar, and H. N. Kunzru, published its findings in October 1955. With significant adjustments, the commission's recommendations were adopted and included in the States Reorganisation Act, which was passed in November 1956. The act called for the reorganisation of state borders to create 14 states and 6 centrally governed regions.

## Reason for Formation of State Reorganisation Commission

More than 500 disparate princely states made up India at the time it gained its independence in 1947. India's component states were momentarily split into Part A, B, C, and D states. Hence, the Indian government established the State Reorganization Commission on December 29, 1953, to investigate the issue of redesigning the boundaries of States. The reorganization of states based on languages was one of the most demanded changes. This was done to simplify administration and to replace contentious caste- and religion-based narratives with less contentious linguistic identities. The members of the State reorganisation commission were K M Panikkar, Fazal Ali, and H N Kunzru.

## Reorganisation of States after Independence



571 princely states were reorganised and combined to become 27 states shortly after gaining independence. Historical and political factors were taken into account when this restructuring was carried out.

- This interim restructuring of the states was carried out. In order to reorganise states into 16 states and 3 union territories, the State Reorganisation Commission, established in 1953, produced a report in 1955. The State Reorganisation Act, passed by Congress in November 1956, divided the nation into 14 states and 6 union territories.
- The State Reorganisation Commission advised that, for the sake of maintaining our nation's unity, it is neither conceivable nor acceptable to reorganise States on the premise of the specific experiment of either culture or language.
- Later, when the states were reformed, linguistic, ethnic, or bureaucratic goals may have served as the motivation.
- Rearranging states according to language would facilitate administration and promote the growth of native tongues, which the British overlooked.
- Even cultural affinities were taken into consideration; for instance, the creation of Nagaland took into account tribal affinities. Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand were recently established in order to improve economic growth in their respective regions.

## Fazl Commission on Reorganisation of States

A separate state was compellingly created in 1953, primarily for Andhra Pradesh residents who spoke Telugu. Potti Sriramulu also passed away as a result of this occurrence. As a result, there was pressure on the government to create Andhra Pradesh, the country's first linguistic state.

- This incident led to a nationwide demand for the establishment of linguistically-based states. On December 22, 1953, Jawaharlal Nehru chose Fazl AI as a dedicated leader to meet this need. HN Kunzru and K M Panikkar were also essential members of the commission in addition to Fazl AI In. The report was compiled and submitted after studying the desires of the people in various places.
- The State reorganisation commission study stated that the entire nation needed to be reorganised into 3 main administration zones and 16 states. However, the government did not heed these suggestions.
- Six union territories and 14 states made up the country according to the States Reorganisation Act of 1956.
- These states included West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Bombay, Kerala, Mysore, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, and the reorganised Jammu and Kashmir. Delhi, Manipur, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Minicoy, the Laccadive, Himachal Pradesh, the Amindivi Islands, and Tripura were the six union territories.

## Shah Commission on Reorganisation of States

The Shah Commission on the state reorganisation act was an investigation panel established by the Indian government in 1977 to look into all the abuses during the Indian Emergency (1975 - 77). Justice J.C. Shah, a former chief justice of India, presided over it.

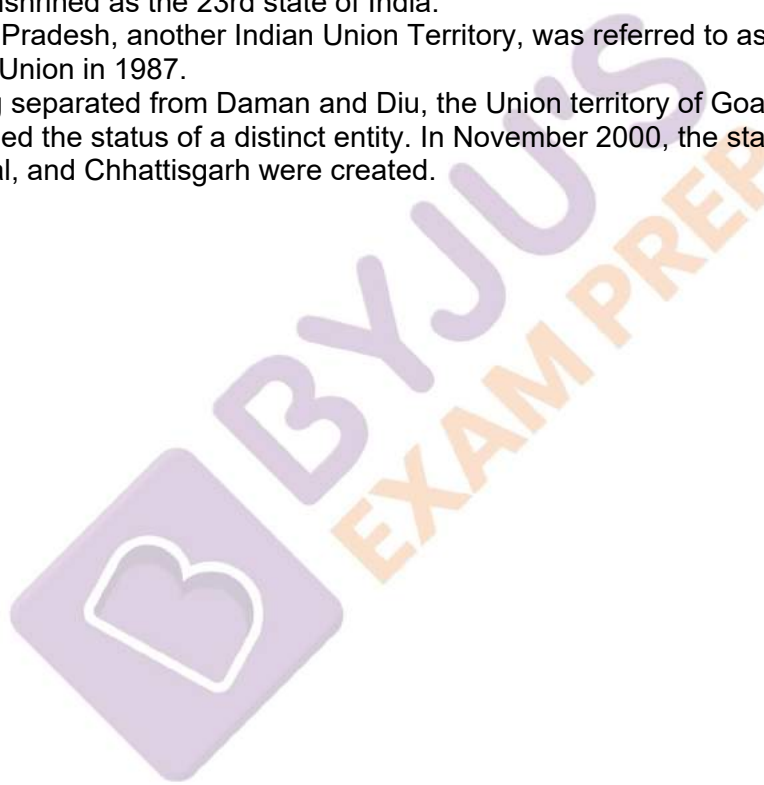
- The Punjab Reorganisation Act was passed in 1966 following numerous uprisings to establish Punjabi Suba. This action was recommended by the 1966-appointed Shah Commission.
- The majority of the Punjabi-speaking population recently moved to Haryana. In addition to being the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana, Chandigarh operated as a Union Territory.

- Universities, a high population density, and key elements of the electrical system are only a few of the similarities between these two states. Punjab then gained the status of a distinct state.

## Further Formation of the States

Assam was split into two states in 1969, one of which became known as Meghalaya. The state was first included in Assam, but over time it was elevated to become a full-fledged state.

- Manipur and Tripura were made into states, bringing the total number of Indian states to 21.
- Sikkim was first created as a state inside the Indian Union. Even though it was referred to as an association state, it eventually became a full-fledged state.
- Mizoram was given the status of a full-fledged state in 1986, at which point it was formally enshrined as the 23rd state of India.
- Arunachal Pradesh, another Indian Union Territory, was referred to as the 24th state of the Indian Union in 1987.
- After being separated from Daman and Diu, the Union territory of Goa, the state of Goa was awarded the status of a distinct entity. In November 2000, the states of Jharkhand, Uttaranchal, and Chhattisgarh were created.



Constituent Assembly Debates are the transcripts of records of all the debates and discussions that took place during the process of forming the draft of the Indian Constitution. These are the discussions of the Indian Constituent Assembly which was established to draft a constitution for independent India. The Constituent Assembly Debates are important due to the fact that they give us a peek into the ideology and thoughts of the members of the Indian Constituent Assembly while drafting the constitution.

The Indian Constituent Assembly originally came into existence in May 1946. The Indian constitution was drafted in 1947 after rigorous Constituent Assembly Debates and discussions. It got approved only in 1949 completely. The **topics of the constituent assembly debates were federalism, untouchability, preamble, uniform civil code** etc. Check the complete details of these debates, the stages of formation etc, and prepare well for the upcoming exam.

What are Constituent Assembly Debates?

The Constituent Assembly first assembled on 9th December 1946 and initiated the process of drafting the Indian constitution. Through several Constitutional Assembly Debates held for over 165 days, the constitution draft was finally made. The draft existed for almost three years before it was formally adopted in November 1949.

Along with the understanding of debates on the con of India, it is important to go through the [Historical Background of Indian Constitution](#) to get the complete picture of how the final law of the land came to being.

Constituent Assembly Debates Summary

The **Constituent Assembly Debates are an excellent way of gaining insight into the real process that went on while drafting the constitution of India**. The debates also played a significant role in making useful amendments to the various clauses of the draft constitution. The Constituent Assembly Debates can be classified into four stages as follows.

Constituent Assembly Debates	Dates	Debate on Constitution of India Notes
Preliminary Stage	9th Dec 1946 - 27th Jan 1948	Union Powers Committee & the Committee on Fundamental Rights and Minorities gave recommendations for the guidelines to be followed.
First Reading after Debate on Constitution of India	4th Nov 1948 - 9th Nov 1948	A drafting committee was also formed. The draft constitution was introduced in the Assembly.
Second Reading	15th Nov 1948 - 17th Oct 1949	The draft constitution was discussed with each of its clauses given attention to.
Third Reading of Constituent Assembly Debates	14th Nov 1949 - 26th Nov 1949	The Constituent Assembly was done with all the readings.
		The Constitution of India was brought into force on 26th November 1949.

### Important Facts on Constituent Assembly Debates

Based on the information provided through the Constituent Assembly Debates; it took over 165 days to frame all the guidelines in the draft of the Indian constitution. It consisted of several clauses that were discussed one by one for almost 100 days.

- As per the Constituent Assembly Debates, around 36 lakh words were spoken while framing the constitution.
- Dr. B.R Ambedkar, who played the most important role in forming the Indian constitution, has the credit of speaking the maximum number of words.
- The Fundamental Rights mentioned in Part III of the constitution were discussed for almost 16 days.
- Sadly, women could only form 2% of the total number of participants in the Constituent Assembly Debates as 15 women

were only elected to the Constituent Assembly, out of whom just 10 women participated in the debates.

- G.Durgabai, who was a female freedom fighter & a Congress member, has been attributed to maximum spoken words among all females.
- Part IV containing the [Directive Principles of State Policy](#) was discussed for around 6 days.

# Committees of Constituent Assembly


Different committees of the Constituent Assembly got established to manage various departments of creating the Indian Constitution, which is currently an Independent India. The drafting committee of the Indian Constitution is very notable in Indian Polity history as it has a vital role in drafting the Constitution. There is a huge significance of **Parliamentary committees** that ensures clarity and efficiency in law-making procedure.

## Drafting Committee of Indian Constitution

The chief founder of the Indian Constitution is Dr. B R Ambedkar. After the commencement of the Indian Constitution, the Independence Act of India (1947) and the Government of India Act (1935) got abolished.

### Members of the Constitution Committee:

Dr. BR Ambedkar evolved as the chairman of the constitutional committee. The committee included experts directed by the Congress Party (known as the Congress Assembly Party), who played a key role. The drafting committee members were:

- 
- N Gopalaswamy Ayyangar
  - Muhammad Saadullah
  - KM Munshi
  - Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar
  - Dr. DP Khaitan (Replaced by TT Krishnamachari)
  - N Madhava Rao replaced BL Mittar following his resignation on health problems.

## List of Major Committees of Constituent Assembly

There were 22 major committees of constituent assembly; out of these, nine were major committees, and the remaining were considered minor committees of constituent assembly.

### Committees of Constituent Assembly - Managing Procedural Affairs

The constitutional committee of Procedural affairs includes

- Hindi Translation Committee
- Press Gallery Committee
- House Committee
- Urdu Translation Committee
- Rules of Procedure Committee
- Finance and Staff Committee
- Orders of Business Committee, Credentials Committee
- Committee on the effect of the Indian Independence Act of 1947
- Steering Committee.

### Committees of Constituent Assembly - Managing Substantive Affairs

The committees of the constituent assembly of substantive affairs include:

Committees of Constituent Assembly	Chairman
Union Powers Committee	Jawaharlal Nehru
Fundamental Rights Sub-Committee	J.B. Kripalani
Finance and Staff Committee	Rajendra Prasad
Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights	Vallabhbhai Patel
Order of Business Committee	K.M. Munshi
Committee on the Rules of Procedure	Rajendra Prasad
Minorities Sub-Committee	H.C. Mukherjee
Union Constitution Committee	Jawaharlal Nehru
Committee on Minorities and Tribal and Excluded Areas	Vallabhbhai Patel
Ad hoc Committee on the National flag	Rajendra Prasad
Committee on the Functions of the Constituent Assembly	G.V. Mavalankar
Drafting Committee	B.R. Ambedkar
Provincial Constitution Committee	Vallabhbhai Patel
Excluded and Partially Excluded Areas Sub-Committee	A.V. Thakkar
House Committee	B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya
North-East Frontier Tribal Areas and Assam	Gopinath Bardoloi
Special Committee to Examine the Draft Constitution	Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar
States Committee	Jawaharlal Nehru
Steering Committee	Rajendra Prasad

## Major Committees of Constituent Assembly - Work Stages

Mentioned are the 5 work stages of committees of the constituent assembly.

- Committees submitted information on matters.
- B. N. Rau formulated an initial draft based on the reports and his analysis of the constitutions of other nations.
- B. R. Ambedkar suggested an elaborate draft constitution issued for public discussion.
- The draft constitution was examined, and revisions were indicated and passed.
- The constitution was set, with a committee of specialists led by the Congress Party (known as the Congress Assembly Party) playing a pivotal function.

## History of Constitutional Committee

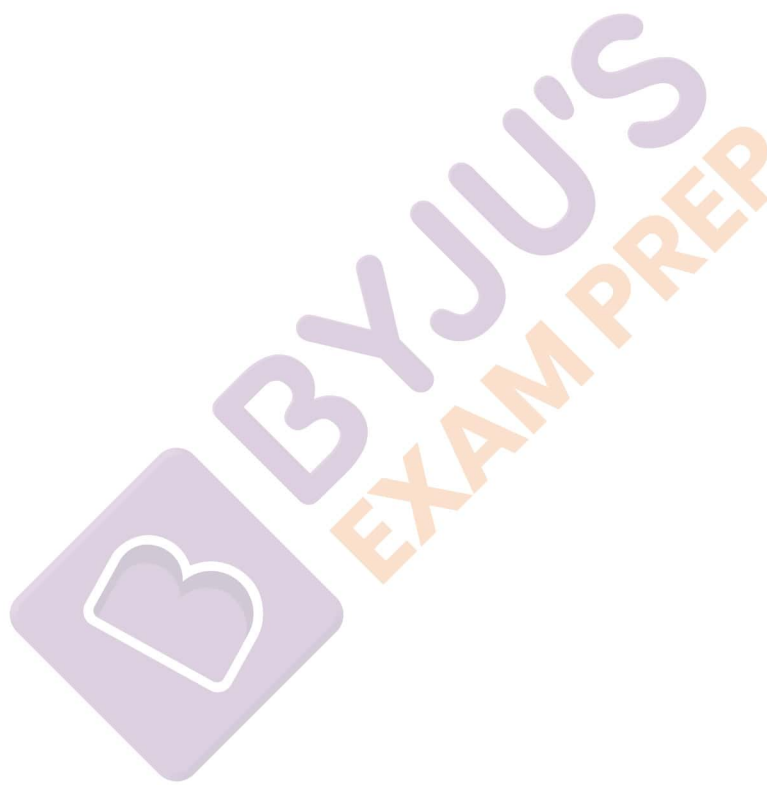
Listed is the detailed timeline of the formation of the Indian constitution in 1950 from the committees of the constituent assembly.

Timeline	Responsibility
9 December 1946	Shaping of the Constituent Assembly (urging a distinct state.)
11 December 1946	President Appointed - [ ] Rajendra Prasad, vice-chairman Harendra Coomar Mookerjee and constitutional legal counsel B. N. Rau (Members dropped to 299 after partition from 389).
13 December 1946	Jawaharlal Nehru presented an 'Objective Resolution'.
22 January 1947	The resolution was taken into effect without opposition.
22 July 1947	The national flag was embraced.
15 August 1947	Acquired independence. India was divided into the Dominion of Pakistan and the Dominion of India.
29 August 1947	Dr. B. R. Ambedkar became the chairman, and a drafting committee was established.
16 July 1948	V. T. Krishnamachari was chosen as the second vice-president of the Constituent Assembly along with Harendra Coomar Mookerjee.
26 November 1949	The constituent assembly passed and acquired the Constitution of India.
24 January 1950	The Constitution of India was marked and authorized with 395 articles, 8 schedules, and 22 parts during the final meeting.



26 January  
1950

After 2 years, with a total expense of ₹6.4 million, the Constitution of India came into power.



***Integration of princely states post-Indian independence was an important subject that holds much importance in Indian history.*** India gained independence on 15th August 1947, which gave rise to two new dominions of India and Pakistan. At the time of independence, in 1947, India was divided into two territories, out of which one was directly under the control of British rule. In contrast, the second was under the British Crown's authority, where their hereditary rulers controlled the states' internal affairs. This article furnishes the whole cognizance around the integration of princely states.

This led to the subject of the integration of princely states which was considered necessary for achieving independence from British rule completely. The British Crown had 562 princely states under its control. The political integration of princely states in independent India was the main aim of the Indian National Congress & the Indian government at the time.

### Integration of Princely States into Indian Union

At the time of Indian independence, all the princely states under British Crown authority were also supposed to gain independence with the end of British rule. Therefore, the integration of princely states was another subject of concern for the Indian leaders. In respect of the area, these 562 states covered around 48% of India before independence, forming a major chunk of the Indian state.

- As per the [Indian Independence Act 1947](#), these princely states were offered to either integrate into India or Pakistan or retain their status as independent sovereign states.
- India's first Deputy Prime Minister, ***Sardar Vallabhai Patel, was handed over the responsibility of accomplishing this task of integration of Indian states into the Indian union.***

Sardar Patel tried to convince the Indian princes to merge their states by reminding them of the risk of anarchy in case they denied it. Certain states didn't like either of the options and wanted to merge with Pakistan and become a part of it.

## Importance of Integration of Indian States

After India's independence, one of the major tasks was the integration of Indian states into the Indian union. This was important because integrating the princely states into India meant transferring authority and power from the British Crown to India.

- The main idea was to create one united independent nation called India.
- Although there were many roadblocks while fulfilling this purpose, many states were unwilling to merge with India or Pakistan and were not in favor of losing their freedom and authority.
- The new Indian government was not in favor of having independent small states within the country as it would lead to a high-security risk for the entire country. These independent princely states could be targeted in case of a foreign attack and could put the nation at risk.
- On the other hand, Pakistan was also in the race to merge these states and increase its power; therefore, it was all the ***more important for India to fasten the process of integration of princely states into the Indian union as soon as possible.***

## Role of Sardar Patel In Integration of Princely States

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the first deputy prime minister of India and the home minister, was handed over this integration task of Indian states.

V.P.Menon (secretary of the Ministry of the States) was supposed to assist him in this task.

- Sardar Patel adopted various measures to achieve his goal, looking at the seriousness of the situation at the time. He tried to instill patriotism in the Indian princes to convince them to integrate their states into the Indian union.
- The concept of “**privy purses**” was also introduced by Sardar Patel while trying to make the integration of princely states possible. The

concept of “privy purses” referred to the payment made to the royal families if they agreed to the merger of their state with India.

- The role of Sardar Patel in the integration of princely states can never be ignored or denied. Let us see how other states were made to agree to this integration of princely states in India.

## How Did India Achieve the Integration Of Princely States?

Bikaner, Gwalior, Baroda, and Patiala were the first to integrate their states into India on 28th April 1947. Trace the path to find out the way India achieved the integration of princely states.

### The Princely State of Travancore

***Travancore was a princely state in southwestern India, now part of Kerela.*** It was earlier known as the kingdom of Travancore, which was quite popular then. Today, it is called Kerela. Travancore was also known as the maritime state and therefore contributed to the maritime trade for the country as well.

It also possessed abundant natural resources, due to which it thought of itself as a self-sufficient state and therefore did not want to merge with the Indian union.

- The Dewan of Travancore, Sir C.P. Ramaswamy Aiyar, had officially declared in 1946 that he was unwilling to let go of the independence of his state & refused to merge.
- He was then invited to Delhi by Jawaharlal Nehru so that he could be convinced, but he did not change his decision & did not agree to sign the ‘Instrument of Accession’.
- He only changed his decision when he survived an assassination attempt made by a member of the Kerala Socialist Party. He advised the king of Travancore from his hospital bed to sign the Instrument of Accession.
- Travancore joined the Indian union on 30th July 1947.

## Bhopal

The **state of Bhopal was also one of the princely states that declined the integration of princely states**. The situation in Bhopal was slightly different from other states where a Muslim Nawab, Hamidullah Khan, was ruling the Hindu-dominated population. The Nawab of Bhopal was ordered a close aide of the Muslim League & thus strictly opposed the integration of princely states.

- Lord Mountbatten offered the Nawab of Bhopal the Instrument of Accession.
- The Nawab of Bhopal refused to sign the Accession claiming the protection of Muslim rights in a Hindu-dominated state.
- By July 1947, he finally accepted and signed the Instrument of Accession as the people of Bhopal also realized that the Nawab was only interested in gaining power.

## Jodhpur

The princely state of Jodhpur was a Rajput state with a Hindu population ruled by a Hindu king. It still was more inclined towards merging with Pakistan. The Hindu king ruling over Jodhpur, Hanvant Singh, was young and had less experience, so he easily got attracted to the deal from Pakistan.

- The deal he received from Jinnah was a blank signed paper where the Prince was asked to list his demands along with free access to the Karachi port.
- **Sardar Patel instantly offered some perks to the king of Jodhpur and tried to stop him from acceding to Pakistan.**
- The Dewan of Bikaner was also said to have convinced the Jodhpur king to accept the integration of the princely states.
- The king of Jodhpur finally signed the Instrument of Accession on 11th August 1947.

## Junagarh

The princely state of Junagarh was situated in southwestern Gujarat. This state also showed disinterest in merging with the Indian union. It comprised a large Hindu population and was ruled by a Muslim Nawab, Muhammad Mahabat Khanji III.

- The king of Junagarh had initially agreed to merge with Pakistan on 15th September 1947, claiming it adjoined Pakistan by sea.
- Later on, two states, Mangrol and Babariawad, under the purview of Junagarh, announced their independence by acceding to the Indian union. The Nawab, in response, forcefully took control of these states by adopting military measures.
- The rulers of Mangrol and Babariawad pleaded for assistance from the Indian Government.
- Looking at the complex situation, Sardar Patel & V.P.Menon tried to convince the Dewan of Junagarh to call for a plebiscite.
- After many clashes & hardships, the plebiscite was held, resulting in Junagarh acceding to India.

## Hyderabad

**Nizam Mir Usman Ali** was the Muslim king ruling over the large Hindu population of Hyderabad. It was the richest among all the princely states of India. The king of Hyderabad denied the possibility of acceding the Indian union.

- The king also led a group of Muslims called Ittehadul Muslameen & a militia called Razakars to cause disruption and threatened the idea of a unified Indian state.
- This led to a police action being taken against Hyderabad by the Indian Government in 1948, when on 13th September, it sent troops under 'Operation Polo'.
- All these instances eventually led the Nawab to surrender Hyderabad and later sign the Instrument of Accession.

## Integration of Kashmir

Kashmir has always been a much-debated topic for years for India and Pakistan. ***At the time of Indian independence, Kashmir was neither a part of India nor Pakistan.*** It was when some Pakistanis attacked Kashmir on 22nd Oct 1947 and the King of Kashmir, Maharaja Hari Singh, had to request the Indian Government to rescue his state.

- Only after the king signed the Instrument of Accession did the Indian Government send its Army for Kashmir's rescue.
- After the Indian Army was sent for assistance, a ceasefire occurred between Indian and Pakistan on 31st December 1948.
- India then raised concerns to the United Nations, resulting in Pakistan being asked by the UN to withdraw its army. However, Pakistan has not removed its army from Kashmir even today, which has been a concern for India for years.
- India was later asked to hold a plebiscite in the state.

## Challenges of Integration of Indian States

Numerous challenges were faced while integrating princely states in India. The majority of the states assented to unite with Central Union, some of the princely states were highly reluctant.

- The states had an opportunity to either integrate with Pakistan or India.
- The states like Hyderabad, in possession of riches, were not willing to give away their authority and integrate with the Central Union.
- There were certain states which believed that they did not attain independence as the Instruments of Accession were considered to be permanent.
- Sardar Patel played a historical role in integrating the princely states. He initiated the concept of "privy purses".

## History of Jammu and Kashmir

- Kashmir and adjoining areas were part of the different empires at different times.
- Before 1000 AD, the Kashmir was an important centre of Hinduism and Buddhism.
- Hindu dynasty rules the state until 1339, which was replaced by Muslim rule by Shah Mir. He became the first Muslim ruler of the Kashmir. After few centuries Shah Mir Dynasty was replaced by the **Mughul Dynasty by emperor Akbar the Great**.
- After conquering Kashmir in 1587, Akbar included it as a part of the Mughal Empire.
- Later in 1752, Kashmir was occupied by the Afghan ruler Ahmed Shah Abdali who ruled the state until 1819 when **Sikh ruler Ranjit** Singh seized the state and ended the Muslim rule.
- The Sikhs ruled the state until they were defeated by the British in the First Anglo-Sikh War in 1846.
- From 1846 to 1947, the Kashmir remained a princely state of the British Empire ruled by Jamwal Rajput Dogra Dynasty.

### Important Facts

- At the time of partition, J&K was a Princely State and had the option of either to join India or to join Pakistan or to remain independent.
- Maharaja Hari Singh, the ruler of J&K, did not exercise the option immediately and proposed a standstill agreement to both Pakistan and India and Pakistan.
- Meanwhile, in Oct 1947, Pakistan interred into the Kashmir with an army of soldiers and tribesmen who were carrying modern weapons.
- Maharaja Hari Singh sought help from India and on 26th October 1947, signed an 'Instrument of Accession' of J&K with India according to which Indian Jurisdiction would extend to communications, external affairs and defence. After signing of 'Instrument of Accession,' Indian troops were airlifted into the state of J&K and fought with the Pakistani invaders and returned them.



- On 5th March 1948, a popular interim government was formed with Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah as the Prime Minister.
- In 1951, the state constituent assembly was formed. A special **position was granted to the state of J&K by signing the Delhi Agreement** was between the Prime Ministers of India and Jammu & Kashmir **under Indian Constitutional framework**.
- **The J&K constituent assembly ratified the accession of the state to the Union of India in 1954, and subsequently, the President** issued the constitution **order under the provisions of Article 370** extending the Union Constitution India to the state of J&K with some modification and exceptions.
- **Thus, Jammu & Kashmir became an integral part of the Union of India. However,** the provisions of Article 370 became a bone of contention in later years.
- **Under Article 370, which was included in the Indian constitution as a temporary provision granted special status to J&K in all other matters except** defence, finance, foreign affairs, and communications.
- **Parliament of India needs the approval of the state government for applying all other laws.**

#### J&K after Accession

- At the time of accession, Kashmir got divided into two parts. One part was with India, and Pakistan occupied as the other one.
- Pakistan supplied fund, arms and ammunition to terrorists to destabilize the J&K. It put every effort to intensify the anti-India protests due to which the Valley faced curfew many times.
- Due to Political Instability and disturbance in the area, there was a rapid increase in militant activities and the violence spread throughout the Valley.
- Many communities, including Hindus, were attacked and were forced to leave to the state.
- **Many steps were taken by various governments for the maintenance of peace in the state. However, due to separatism,**

**political instability and Pakistan-sponsored terrorism, the state continued to be disturbed until recent times.**

### **The J&K Reorganization Act, 2019**

- To stabilize the state and provide a better administration to the people of J&K, the Government of India passed the J&K Reorganization Bill, 2019, which became an Act after passing in both the houses of the Parliament and ratification of the President.
- The Act provides for the reorganization of the state of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territory, one as the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and other as the Union Territory of Ladakh.
- The Union Territory of Ladakh will be comprised of Kargil and Leh districts, and the Union Territory of J&K will have the remaining territories of the undivided state of Jammu and Kashmir.
- They make provisions for a legislator for the Union Territory of J&K. However, it did not make any provision of the legislator for Union Territory of Ladakh due to its low population.
  - The Union Territory of J&K and the Union Territory of Ladakh will be administered directly by the President, through an administrator appointed called as the Lieutenant Governor.
  - The Union Territory of J&K will have a Council of Ministers of not more than 10% of the total number of members in the assembly.
  - The Council will advise the Lieutenant Governor on all matters on which the assembly has powers to make laws. The Chief Minister of the state of J&K will communicate all decisions of the Council to the Lieutenant Governor.
  - The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir will be the common High Court for the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh.

### **Present issues of the J&K**

- Restoration of the basic rights of the people of J&K – At present, the people of J&K are under continuous supervision for controlling any

unusual incident in the Valley. However, the basic rights of the citizens should be restored as soon as possible.

- Lack of communication facility – The government is yet to restore the communication facility of Valley. The government should restore the same at the earliest.
- Division of resources – Dividing the manpower and material resources between the UT of J&K and Ladakh is an important issue.
- Law and order issues – The Valley is still facing the law and order issues due to various separatist leaders in the region.
- Lack of good education and health – The Union Territory of J&K still does not have adequate health and education facilities for its population.
- Lack of provisions for democratic elections – Recent Block Development Council elections in the region have shown that creating a new leadership will not be an easy task for the government.
- The issue of separatist leaders – The Union Territory of J&K has a long list of separatist leaders who are more alien to Pakistan. They always try to disturb the region.
- The government's plans to bring people of J&K in the mainstream are not yet known.

### **Way forward**

- The basic rights of the citizens should be restored as soon as possible.
- The government should restore the communication facility in the Valley at the earliest.
- Adequate resources should be provided for the proper functioning of the government machinery and for the welfare of the people of the region.
- Law and order issues should be dealt with strictly, and every effort needs to be put up for restoring normalcy in the Union Territory of J&K.

- Separatist leaders need to be kept under custody and make them understand that the democratic values of the country.
- The government should make every effort to make the people aware of the benefits they are going to get in the recent future year.
- The government should make every effort for holding the election to the local bodies.
- All efforts need to be made by the government, NGOs and people of the country to include the people of J&K in the mainstream development

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## UNIT 12 COMMUNALISM : GENESIS, GROWTH AND PARTITION OF INDIA

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### Structure

- 12.0 Objectives
- 12.1 Introduction
- 12.2 What is Communalism?
- 12.3 Myths Regarding Communalism
- 12.4 Emergence and Growth of Communalism
  - 12.4.1 Socio-Economic Factors
  - 12.4.2 Role of British Policy
  - 12.4.3 Weaknesses in the National Movement
- 12.5 Communalism in the 20th Century
  - 12.5.1 Partition of Bengal and the Formation of the Muslim League
  - 12.5.2 Separate Electorates
  - 12.5.3 Lucknow Pact
- 12.6 Nehru Report and the Parting of the Ways with Jinnah
- 12.7 Towards Mass Communalism
- 12.8 The Last Phase of British Policy and Partition
- 12.9 The Communal Carnage and Interim Government
- 12.10 Let Us Sum Up
- 12.11 Answers to Check Your Progress Exercises

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### 12.0 OBJECTIVES

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You all are quite familiar with the term 'Communalism'. This unit intends to answer some of the questions regarding communalism in India. After reading this unit you can:

- explain what communalism is and distinguish between various types of communalism,
- see how communalism emerged in the Indian society and polity,
- evaluate the role of the various forces which enabled it to grow,
- trace its development in the early 20th century,
- explain the nature of communalism in the last decade of British rule,
- get an idea of the background to the demand for Pakistan,
- trace the political developments leading up to the partition of India, and
- assess the role played by Muslim League, the British and the Congress in the creation of Pakistan.

## 12.1 INTRODUCTION

One of the major priorities of any developing country is to maintain a unity of its people. In the history of modern India, such a unity was put to a severe test by the growing communalism. Whereas the Indian National Movement aimed at achieving the unity of all Indian people, communalism sought to divide them along religious lines, by creating and spreading false barriers of religious communities, religious interests and ultimately religious nations also. This unit will try to tell you how communalism in India was born and thrived because of a combination of various forces and their development. For instance, the peculiarity of the socio-economic development of India in the 19th century, the impact of the colonial rule as well as the role of certain colonial policies, the weakness of the anti-communal nationalist forces and finally the active role played by the communal organizations.

The 1940s represent the most crucial and decisive phase of communalism. It was in this period that the biggest communal demand— the demand for Pakistan— was put forward, and popularised by the Muslim League. This period also witnessed the actual coming into being of Pakistan in 1947. This Unit attempts to explain the process of the formation of Pakistan, and gives you a summary of the major events which led to it.

## 12.2 WHAT IS COMMUNALISM?

Generally speaking, Communalism is a belief that all those who have a common religion also have, as a result, common social, political, cultural and economic interests and identities. In other words, it is the notion that religion forms the base of the society and a basic unit of division in the society: that it is religion that determines all the other interests of man. To understand it better, let us look at it differently. Human being is a multi-faceted social being, who can, at the same time have a number of identities. His / her identity can be based on his / her country, region, gender, occupation, position within the family, caste or religion. A communalist would choose only the religious identity from this wide range and emphasize it out of proportions. As a result, social relationship, political behaviour, and economic struggles might be defined on the basis of the religious identity. So, briefly put, it is the super-imposition of the religious category over all others, which becomes the starting point of communalism.

Briefly, the communal propaganda and arguments had three levels:

- i) that the interests of all the members of a religious community were the same; for example, it was argued that a Muslim Zamindar and a peasant had common interests because both were Muslims, (or Hindus or Sikhs as the case might be);
- ii) that the interests of the members of one religious community were different from the members of another religious community. In other words this meant that all Hindus had different interests from all Muslims and vice-versa; and
- iii) that not only were these interests different, but also antagonistic and conflicting. This, in other words meant that Hindus and Muslims could not co-exist in peace because of conflicting interests.

## 12.3 MYTHS REGARDING COMMUNALISM

Communalism has been a widely misunderstood phenomenon and, as a result, there have been many myths about it. It is therefore very important to know what communalism is not. And while trying to understand communalism, it is important to keep the myths regarding communalism in mind.

- 1) As against popular notions communalism is not merely religion's entry into politics, or politics defined in religious terms. In other word, religion's entry into politics did not necessarily produce communalism. To take an example, two of the greatest secular leaders of the 20th century – Mahatma Gandhi and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad – were also deeply religious people and defined their politics in religious terms.
- 2) Communalism is not the result of religious differences. In other words, religious differences in themselves do not constitute the essence of communalism. For example, religious differences between the Hindus and Muslims had continued for centuries but they assumed the communal form only in the modern period. If fact, communalism is not a religious problem at all.
- 3) Communalism was not inherent in the Indian society, as has often been assumed. It was not a 'hang-over' of India's past. It was a product of certain peculiar circumstances and combination of forces. Communalism is a modern phenomenon, as modern as the emergence of colonial rule. It is to be explained by political and economic developments in the modern period of Indian history.

### Check Your Progress 1

- 1) What do you understand by the term communalism? Write in 100 words.  
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- 2) Which of the following statements are right (✓) or wrong (×)?
  - i) Communalism is not the result of religious differences only.
  - ii) Communalism was inherent in the Indian society.
  - iii) Communalism was a modern phenomenon.
  - iv) Communal arguments were false and were not rooted in the Indian reality.

## 12.4 EMERGENCE AND GROWTH OF COMMUNALISM

What was the starting point of this problem? The genesis of communalism should be seen with the British conquest of India, which had a tremendous impact on the society and economy of India.

### 12.4.1 Socio-Economic Factors

The British conquest brought about a change in the power structure which generally penetrated down to all the sections of the Indian society. To begin with, the British conquest marked the decadence of the upper class Muslims. It was particularly so in Bengal, where they lost their semi-monopoly in employment in the upper posts of army, administration and judiciary. They were also slowly evicted from their dominant position in land-holding.

Moreover, Muslims adapted later than Hindus to such British novelties as English education, the new professions, posts in the administration, and culture. Consequently an intellectual awakening, resulting in a re-assessment of the old beliefs, customs and values, was also late among the Muslims, compared to the Hindus. This time 'lag' between Ram Mohan Roy and Syed Ahmed Khan for instance, would help to explain a feeling of weakness and insecurity on the part of the Muslims, leading to a reliance on religion and traditional ways of thinking.

### 12.4.2 Role of British Policy

The British policy holds a very special responsibility for favouring the growth of communalism. If communalism could flourish in India and reach monstrous proportions, which it did in 1947, it was possible largely because of the support it received from the British government. But before we discuss the British policy in detail certain clarifications might be made.

The British did not create communalism. We have seen that certain socio-economic and cultural differences already existed. They were not created but only taken advantage of by the British, to serve their political end. It is, therefore, quite obvious that the British policy of 'divide and rule', that we are going to talk about, could succeed only because something in the internal social, economic, cultural and political conditions of society favoured its success. It is important to note that conditions were remarkably favourable for the use and growth of communalism as well as for the policy of 'divide and rule'. There were two main objectives before the government in Post 1857 Revolt period.

- 1) To make some friends in the society, to offer patronage to some sections mainly in order to exercise influence and extend control and thereby strengthen its base in the society.
- 2) To prevent unity of the Indian people. If all the sections of the society could unite under any ideological influence, they could threaten the British Empire. Therefore communal ideology had to be used and spread to deny the oneness of the Indian people. This was done more effectively in the 20th century when the communal demands and organizations were encouraged to negate the legitimacy and credibility of the nationalist demands, ideology and organization. Thus on the one hand, all attempts were made to keep the Muslims away from the Congress, and then the claims of the Congress were run down on the grounds that it did not represent the Muslims!

Communalism served the government in yet another way. Communal deadlock and the worsening communal situation could also be used as a justification for the continuation of the British rule. The argument they gave



that the Indian people were divided amongst themselves, and were therefore incapable of governing themselves, if the British rule ended.

### **12.4.3 Weaknesses in the National Movement**

The growth of communalism in the 20th century could be checked by a nationalist upsurge. The communal ideology could be defeated by the nationalist forces and ideology. But the Indian National Congress, as a representative of the nationalist forces and ideology, failed to prevent the spread of communalism among the people. Although fully committed to secularism and nationalism, and desirous to bring about a unity of the Indian people, the Indian National Movement fought a battle against the communal forces but lost ultimately due to a variety of reasons. To begin with, the Congress could not comprehensively understand the nature of communalism. As a result of this, the Congress did not have a central strategy to combat communalism.

Besides, certain Hindu revivalist tendencies entered into the national movement and successfully prevented its attempts to reach out to Muslims and incorporate them into its fold. Also the use of certain religious symbols (like Ramarajya for instance) acted as a barrier. However, while pointing out the limitations, the complexity of the problems should not be ignored. It became very difficult to solve the communal problem particularly because of the attitude of the Government. The British government did all it could to prevent a settlement between various political groups. No matter what the Congress offered to the Muslims, the Government always offered more, thereby making the arrangement redundant.

### **Check Your Progress 2**

- 1) Write 100 words on the role of British Policy towards communalism.

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- 2) Discuss the weaknesses of the Congress to check the growth of communalism.

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## **12.5 COMMUNALISM IN THE 20TH CENTURY**

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In this section, we shall see some of the major developments in the 20th century in relation to the communal problem. We shall discuss them very briefly and see how they affected the communal problem. Some of the points made in the earlier section regarding the British policy and the Congress attitude will also be dealt with in this section.

### 12.5.1 Partition of Bengal and the Formation of the Muslim League

The partition of Bengal (1905) may have started as an administrative measure, but it was soon transformed into a major political advantage for the government as it intended to convert Bengal into areas of Hindu majority and Muslim majority. It was thus the result of the British desire to weaken the nationalism of Bengal and consolidate a Muslim block against it. As the Viceroy Curzon said:

“The partition would invest the Muslims of East Bengal with a unity which they had not enjoyed since the days of old Mussalman Viceroys and Kings”.

The partition and the subsequent Swadeshi Movement were followed by the formation of the All India Muslim League towards the end of 1906, with official patronage. It consisted of a group of big Zamindars, ex-bureaucrats and other upper class Muslims, like Aga Khan, the Nawab of Dacca and Nawab Mohsin-ul-Mulk. Its motive was to thwart the young Muslims from going over to the Congress, and thereby into the nationalist fold. The Muslim League was formed as purely a loyalist body whose only job was to look up to the government for favour and patronage.

Another important feature of this period was the growth of Muslim separatism, because of

- the surfacing of Hindu revivalistic tendencies during the Swadeshi movement,
- the British propaganda that the partition of Bengal would benefit the Muslims, and
- spurts of communal violence: a number of communal riots broke out in Eastern Bengal, in the period following the Swadeshi Movement.

### 12.5.2 Separate Electorates

The declaration of separate electorates in the legislative bodies in 1909, as a part of the Morley-Minto reforms is a major landmark in the history of communalism. Separate electorates meant grouping of constituencies, voters and elected candidates on the basis of religion. In practical terms it meant introducing Muslims constituencies, Muslim voters, and Muslim candidates. It also meant that non-Muslim voter could vote for a Muslim candidate. The election campaign and politicisation was thus strictly confined within the walls of each religion. All this was to have disastrous consequences.

The introduction of the separate electorates was based on the notion that the Indian society was a mere collection of interests and groups and that it was basically divided between the Hindus and Muslims. Indian Muslims were on the other hand, regarded as “a separate, distinct and monolithic community”. It was also based on the motive of entrusting power in the hands of potential allies as well as preventing Hindu-Muslim unity.

According to these reforms, the Muslims were assured that they would be granted representation in the councils, not merely according to their ‘numerical strength’, but also according to their ‘political importance’.

The impact of the separate electorates was as follows:

- it created the institutional structures containing separatism,
- it was to produce severe constraints on the Congress and to limit its space for nationalist activities,
- it was to activate the communal groups and organizations, and
- it ensured the impossibility of a common agreement among Indian political groups.

### **12.5.3 Lucknow Pact**

Lucknow Pact (1916) was an attempt made by the Indian organizations, namely the Congress and the Muslim League, to arrive at a settlement. The Congress conceded separate electorates as a temporary arrangement, in order to obtain Muslim League's support. Two things need to be remembered regarding the Lucknow Pact:

- It was an arrangement between the leaders, not between the people. The Congress League settlement was wrongly equated with a Hindu-Muslim settlement, the assumption being that the Muslim League truly represented the Muslims,
- Soon the Lucknow Pact became redundant because of the Government of India Act, 1919, which granted much more to Muslims than the Lucknow Pact.

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## **12.6 NEHRU REPORT AND THE PARTING OF THE WAYS WITH JINNAH**

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The arrival of the Simon Commission and its near unanimous boycott by all sections of political opinion, once again provided an opportunity for unity. A section of the Muslim League, under the leadership of Jinnah, took the initiative and was willing to give up separate electorates in favour of joint electorates, if certain conditions were met. These were:

- 1/3rd representation for the Muslims in the central legislature,
- separation of Sind from Bombay as a separate province,
- reform in the North-West Frontier provinces, and
- Muslims representation in the legislative council in proportion to their population in Punjab and Bengal.

These demands were accepted by the Congress, which opened up prospects for unity. But its rejection in uncompromising terms by the Hindu Mahasabha at the All Parties Conference (1928) complicated matters. The incompatibility between the League and Mahasabha frustrated all attempts at unity.

On February 12, 1928, All Parties Conference called at Delhi attended by the representatives of 29 organizations in response to the appointment of Simon Commission. The All Parties Conference appointed a committee with Motilal Nehru as its chairman. The purpose was to consider and determine the principles of the Constitution for India. Some of the key recommendations of Nehru Report were as follows:

- India should be given Dominion Status with the Parliamentary form

of Government with bi-cameral legislature that consists of senate and House of Representatives.

- The senate will comprise of two hundred members elected for seven years, while the House of Representatives should consist of five hundred members elected for five years. Governor-General will act on the advice of executive council. It was to be collectively responsible to the parliament.
- There should be Federal form of Government in India with Residuary powers to be vested in Centre. There will be no separate electorate for minorities because it awakens communal sentiments therefore it should be scrapped and joint electorate should be introduced.
- There will be no reserved seats for communities in Punjab and Bengal. However, reservation of Muslim seats could be possible in the provinces where Muslim population should be at least ten percent.
- Judiciary should be independent from the Executive.
- There should be the Muslim Representation at Centre.
- Sind should be separated from Bombay provided it proves to be financially self sufficient.

The impact of the Nehru Report was significant. It led to the estrangement of Jinnah, who called it a 'Parting of the Ways' with the Congress, went back to the separate electorates, and formulated his famous fourteen points (including separate electorates, reservation of seats in the centre and provinces, reservation of jobs for Muslims, creation of new Muslim majority provinces, etc.) which became the text of the communal demands.

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## **12.7 TOWARDS MASS COMMUNALISM**

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Muslim League had, hitherto, been an elite organization, dominated by the princes and the Zamindars and had absolutely no base among the masses. In order to succeed in the electoral politics and be in a better bargaining position vis-à-vis other dominant groups, it was important to have a mass base and be a popular organization, much like the Congress.

By 1937 all the fourteen points of Jinnah had been granted by the government. And yet he found himself nowhere! He was just not able to carry himself and the League, of which he had become the permanent President, to a position of political respectability. Therefore, it was important to maximise the league's membership and also to place the demand at a much higher pitch, since all the other demands (like separate electorates, reservation of seat, etc.) had been conceded.

In order to achieve these two-fold tasks, Jinnah did the following:

- A massive campaign for the popularisation of the League was launched. The Muslim League actually broke out of its elite shell and began to acquire a mass character (although among Muslim masses only). Membership fee was reduced, provincial committees were formed and the party programme was also transformed so as to acquire a socio-economic content.

- An equally strong campaign was launched to denounce and condemn the Congress ministries. They were shown to represent Hindu Raj and hostile to Muslim minorities. This was the surest way of creating a Hindu-Muslim divide. The Congress was asked to concentrate only on the Hindus, as it was seen by Jinnah as a Hindu Body.
- In 1940, at the Lahore session, Jinnah came up with the two-nation theory. It said that Muslims were not a minority, they were a nation. Hindus and Muslims, consisted of two nations, as they were different people economically, politically, socially, culturally, and historically. Therefore the Muslims of India should have a sovereign state for themselves. Hence the demand for Pakistan as a separate homeland for Muslims was born.

As a result of all that has been discussed above, communalism began to emerge as a mass force. This was to lead to Pakistan in 1947.

### Check Your Progress 3

- 1) What do you understand by separate electorates? Write in about 100 words.  
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- 2) Write five lines on the Lucknow Pact.  
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- 3) How did the Muslim League acquire a mass-base?  
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## 12.8 THE LAST PHASE OF BRITISH POLICY AND PARTITION

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As mentioned earlier the growth of Muslim communalism was considerably aided by the whole-hearted official backing given to it by the British Government. After the outbreak of the Second World War the Muslim League was assiduously fostered by Viceroy Linlithgow. The Pakistan demand was used to counter the demand of the Congress that the British should promise that Indian would be free after the War and as proof of their sincerity, transfer actual control of the government to Indians immediately. The British pointed out the Hindus and Muslims must come to an agreement on how power was to be transferred before the process could begin. The



League was officially recognized as the representative voice of Muslims (even though its performance in the last elections hardly substantiated this claim) and promised that no political settlement would be made unless it was acceptable to the League. This was a blanket power of veto, which Jinnah was to use to good effect after the War had ended.

Cripps' proposals gave a fillip to the activities of the Muslim League and provided legitimacy to the Pakistan demand by accommodating it in their provision for provincial autonomy. At a time when the demand had hardly been taken seriously by Indians, its sympathetic consideration by officialdom was a great service to the cause of Pakistan.

The elections were duly held in the winter of 1945-46. By the time the elections took place, the League – following the congenial aftermath of the Simla Conference, and dangling the carrot of Pakistan – was in a favourable situation to deal with its separate Muslim electorate. To the Muslim traders and middle classes the dream of Musalmanon-ki-Hukumat and the Indian Muslim's special right of self-determination, along with the fervent religious cry of "Islam in danger", were dished out. Although the Congress was at the crest of its popularity, especially with the people's anticipations of the coming of independence, it was nevertheless not in a position in such religiously frenzied atmosphere to carry the bulk of Muslim voters with it. The outcome of the elections, particularly the respective positions of the Congress and the League, clearly brought all these out.

The Congress won overwhelmingly in the General (non-Muslim) constituencies, securing 91.3 per cent votes, winning 57 out of 102 seats in the Central Legislative Assembly and obtaining majorities in all the provinces except Sind, Punjab and Bengal. The spectacular Congress victories, however, could not diminish the significance that the Government had already thrust upon the Muslim electorate. From the British point of view, and at the negotiation table to be presided by them what mattered more in 1946 than the massive national mandate for the Congress was the League's ability to goad the Muslim voters to its side – by hook or by crook. Apparently in this the League attained remarkable successes by polling 86.6 per cent of the Muslim votes, winning all the 30 Muslim seats in the Central Legislative Assembly and grabbing 442 out of 509 Muslim seats in the provinces. But despite all its achievement, the League could not establish its Swaraj on those Muslim-majority provinces which it was demanding for Pakistan. It lost NWFP and Assam to the Congress and failed to dislodge the Unionists from Punjab. Even the League ministries that were set up in Bengal and Sind hinged precariously on official and European support. The fact was that the League's claim for Muslim support had hardly ever been tested in undivided India. The elections were held not only on the basis of separate electorate, which had been devised to keep the Muslims away from the national mainstream, but also on the strength of severely restricted franchise – barely 10 per cent of the total population.

Once the main parties emerged from the limited elections in their strength, as anticipated more or less by the British, the Attlee Government lost no time in commencing negotiations with them. A high-powered mission of three British cabinet members (Pethick Lawrence, Secretary of State for

India: Stafford Cripps, President of the Board of Trade; and A.V. Alexander, First Lord of Admiralty) was sent to India to find out ways and means of a negotiated, peaceful transfer of power in India. As it had already been sensed in the British circles, time was running out of the British hands for all practical purposes, and India had reached the high point of ferment by March, 1946 with popular unrest finding intermittent expressions throughout the country. There was also the British fear that the disquietude of the people might take shape of another countrywide “mass movement or a revolution”, which it was in the power of the Congress to start, and which, the Viceroy felt, “we are not certain that we can control”. The Cabinet Mission, therefore, arrived in India to wrest the initiative. Aided by the Viceroy, it held discussion with the Indian leaders till June 1946 for setting the constitutional future of India, and for deciding upon an interim Indian Government.

Following a series of long-drawn deliberations with the Indian leaders of kinds, which had often run into stalemates on account of Jinnah’s brinkmanship over Pakistan and the Muslim right of self-determination, the Mission eventually came up with a complicated, but somewhat plausible plan for wriggling out of the Indian impasse. Although the Viceroy and one of its members (Alexander) had been sympathetic towards Jinnah, the Mission was unable to accept the League’s demand for a full-fledged Pakistan (comprising the whole of all the Muslim majority areas) on the ground that it would not be acceptable to the non-Muslims who formed majorities in West Bengal and Eastern Punjab, as well as in Assam proper. This would necessitate such a bifurcation of Bengal, Punjab and Assam which would go against all regional and linguistic ties, create insurmountable economic and administrative problems, and yet might not satisfy the League. Having thus rejected both the concepts of a larger and a smaller Pakistan, the Mission offered the plan of a very loose union of all the Indian territories under a centre that would control merely the defence, the foreign affairs and the communications, leaving all other subjects to the existing provincial legislatures. The provincial legislatures would then elect a Constituent Assembly, with each province being allotted a specified number of seats proportionate to its population and distributed strength-wise among its various communities. The members so elected “will divide up into three sections” – Section A for the non-Muslim majority provinces (Bombay, the United Provinces, Bihar, the Central Provinces, Orissa and Madras), Section B for the Muslim-majority provinces in the north-west (Sind, NWFP and Punjab) and Section C for the same in the north-east (Bengal and Assam). All these sections would have the authority to draw up provincial constitutions and, if necessary, group constitutions, and setting up thereby provincial and sectional legislatures and executives. As the completion of all these long-term arrangements would take considerable time, the Mission proposed a short-term measure – the formation immediately of an Interim Government at the Centre, enjoying the support of the major political parties, and with the Indians holding all the portfolios.

The Mission’s plan was intended to be a compromise, by placating the Congress through the rejection of the Pakistan scheme and by mollifying the League through the creation of autonomous Muslim-majority areas in some proximity. At the outset, therefore, both the Congress and the League were

inclined to accept the plan. But differences soon surfaced over the provisions for forming sections or groups of provinces. The League interpreted the groupings to be compulsory, for that might brighten up the possibility of a future full-fledged Pakistan by bulldozing the Congress-administered Muslim-majority provinces of NWFP (in section B) and Assam (in section C) into it (in their respective sections the Congress majorities from NWFP and Assam would be reduced to helpless minorities). It was precisely because of the opposition of NWFP and Assam to their being dragged into Sections B and C that the Congress wanted the grouping to be optional. The Congress was also critical of the absence of any provision for the elected members from the princely states in the proposed Constituent Assembly, though it appeared to be willing to swallow the limited and indirect nature of electing the Constituent Assembly, blatantly contrary to its past demand for such an election on adult franchise. By the end of July 1946, the Congress and the League decided against trying out the Cabinet Mission plan any further, mainly on account of their difference over the grouping system, but partly because of the Mission's inability to clarify its intentions.

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## 12.9 THE COMMUNAL CARNAGE AND INTERIM GOVERNMENT

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The setback over the Cabinet Mission plan so exasperated the League that it wanted forthwith to force the situation through "Direct Action", or give concrete expression to its postelection slogan, 'Ladke Lenge Pakistan' ("we shall have Pakistan by force"). The outcome was the communal carnage that began first on the Direct Action Day (16<sup>th</sup> August 1946) in Calcutta, and then in a chain of reactions spread over other areas of the country, notably in Bombay, eastern Bengal and Bihar, a certain part of the U.P., NWFP and Punjab. In Calcutta, the League rowdies, encouraged by the League Premier of Bengal, Suhrawardy, had a field day on 16<sup>th</sup> August by suddenly resorting to large scale violent attacks on the non-Muslims. Once the element of surprise was over, the Hindus and Sikhs also hit back. The army, stationed at the very heart of the city, took its own time to react, and when it did sluggishly move to restore order 4,000 had already been killed in three days, and 10,000 injured.

Riots erupted in Bombay in September 1946, but not so frenziedly as in Calcutta. Even then, more than 300 persons lost their lives in stray incidents there. In October 1946, communal riots broke out furiously in Noakhali and Tippera, leaving 400 dead and resulting in widespread violation of women, loot and arson. Bihar communal riots towards the end of October left more than 7,000 dead. U.P. was not lagging far behind, and at Garhamukhteswar alone approximately 1,000 people were slaughtered. The riots in Lahore, Amritsar, Multan, Attock and Rawalpindi, had killed about 5,000 by the middle of 1947. These were, however, the mere beginnings, for the communal riots continued to blaze very high throughout 1947 and the earlier part of 1948, resulting in deaths and injuries to several lakhs of people, abduction and rape of countless women, immense destruction of personal properties and innumerable desecration of religious places. Millions had to become refugees, and whereas in some localities (like Punjab) a wholesale exchange



of population took place, in others (like Bengal) people continued to leave their places in waves for a long time to come. In the sheer extent of human suffering and dehumanization, and in the total upsetting of the country's social and economic fabric, the fratricide in the Indian sub-continent between 1946 and 1948 perhaps had only a few parallels in the annals of civilization.

It was coinciding practically with the outbreak of the communal carnage that an Interim Government at the centre - the one which the Cabinet Mission proposed as a short-term measure in its plan - came into existence in September 1946. To begin with, the Viceroy's attempts at its formation met almost with the same difficulty they faced in the Simla Conference, namely Jinnah's insistence on parity between 5 Hindu nominees of the Congress and 5 Muslim nominees of the League in such a Government, apart from 1 Sikh and one Scheduled Caste in it. As anticipated, the Congress rejected such a proposal of "parity", claimed the right to include any number of Hindus, Muslims and others in its list of nominees and demanded the new Government to function like a cabinet, and not like a mere advisory body to the Viceroy. Wavell would have called off his endeavours on the ground that nothing was likely to be achieved if the main parties continued to differ, which he contentedly did in Simla in June 1945. But the impending threat of mass-upsurge and worsening law and order necessitated him to go ahead with the idea of an Interim Government.

Elated apparently by the Viceregal gesture of giving them precedence over their League counterparts, and expecting the formation of the Interim Government to be to their advantage, as well as an advance towards the peaceful transfer of power, the Congress leaders opted on 2<sup>nd</sup> September for the making of a cabinet under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru. As the situation unfolded later on, the Congress-dominated functioning of the Interim Government became on the whole an exercise in mis-adventures. Despite all its concern, it was in effect helpless in the face of the communal holocaust-to move the leisurely army, under a British commander in Chief, into the riot-afflicted areas. Being presided over by the Viceroy, the Interim Government was also not able sometimes to withstand his vetoing power. And its position worsened when Wavell persuaded the League leaders to join it on 26<sup>th</sup> October 1946, overlooking their persistence with the "Direct Action", and by agreeing to balance the Congress-nominated Scheduled Caste member. Thereafter the Interim Government, obstructed by its League members, and divided sharply into the Congress and the League camps, backed up by their warring followings within the bureaucracy, was reduced for all practical purposes to a figure head. The senior and venerable Congress leaders were no longer hopeful. Rather, they were too keen to come out of the labyrinth at any cost, if necessary by buying freedom at the exorbitant price of partitioning the nation, and by putting their life-long nationalist dreams at an auction.

The speed with which division was affected and the delay in announcing the awards of the Boundary Commission aggravated the tragedy of partition. These were Mountbatten's decisions. Mountbatten delayed the announcement of the Boundary Commission Award (even though it was ready by 12<sup>th</sup> August 1947) to disown responsibility for further complications. This created confusion for ordinary citizens as well as the officials. People living

in the villages between Lahore and Amritsar stayed on in their homes in the belief that they were on the right side of the border. Migrations necessarily became a frenzied affair, often culminating in massacres.

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## **12.10 LET US SUM UP**

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The partition of India was primarily the result of the persistent efforts of the Muslim League from 1940 onwards to obtain a separate homeland for the Muslims. Through an astute combination of constitutional methods and direct actions, the League, under Jinnah's stewardship, consolidated its position and forced the political situation into a deadlock, from which partition was the only escape. But Pakistan could not have been created without the help given by the British. British authorities used the communal card in their moves to counter the national movement which was growing from strength to strength. They gave credibility to the Pakistan demand, recognized the League as the sole representative of Muslims and gave the League the power to veto progress in political settlements. Even when their own interests inclined them towards leaving behind a United India, they proved incapable of standing up to Jinnah and tamely surrendered to the blackmail of direct action. Official inaction in checking the rapidly deteriorating communal situation reached a point from which partition appeared its long-standing commitment to a United India. Its weakness lay on two fronts. It failed to draw the Muslim masses into the national movement and was able to evolve a strategy to successfully fight communalism.

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## **12.11 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS EXERCISES**

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### **Check Your Progress 1**

- 1) See Section 12.2  
1. (i) ✓ (ii) × (iii) ✓ (iv) ✓

### **Check Your Progress 2**

- 1) See Sub-section 12.4.2  
2) See Sub-section 12.4.3

### **Check Your Progress 3**

- 1) See Sub-section 12.5.2  
2) See Sub-section 12.5.3  
3) See Section 12.7

# Partition of India

The Partition of India in 1947 was the division of British India into two independent dominion states, the Union of India and the Dominion of Pakistan. Today the Dominion of India is the Republic of India, while the Dominion of Pakistan is today the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The Partition was carried out on religious lines in the provinces of Punjab and Bengal, based on district-wise non-Muslim and Muslim majorities. The Partition was outlined in the Indian Independence Act 1947 and resulted in the dissolution of the British Raj.

The Partition displaced between 10 - 12 million people, creating a refugee crisis marked with large-scale violence with the casualties ranging from several hundred thousand and two million. To this day the violent outcome of the Partition still plagues the relationship between India and Pakistan.

## Background of the Partition

It can be said that the seeds of the Partition of India were sowed in the Partition of Bengal when the province was divided on a religious basis. Popular outrage and protests against this move forced the Viceroy, Lord Curzon, reversed the decision.

The protest against the Partition was predominantly led by the Hindu elite of Bengal. Fearing reforms that might favour the Hindu majority, led to the Muslim elite to ask for separate electorates for the Muslim community. With this demand, the All India Muslim League was formed in Dhaka in 1906.

The 1916 Lucknow session of the Congress was a scene of unprecedented mutual cooperation between the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League. It was spurred on by the doubts of the Muslim League that the "religious neutrality" of the British was a farce. This was because of the fact that Britain was at war with Turkey. The Sultan of Turkey was regarded as the *Khalifa* or spiritual head of Islam as he was the custodian of the holy sites of Mecca, Medina and Jerusalem. This only increased the suspicion of the British intention towards the Muslims of the subcontinent.

The Muslim League joined the Congress towards the goal of greater self-government; in return, the Congress accepted separate electorates for Muslims both in the provincial legislatures and the Imperial Legislative Council. This came to be known as the Lucknow Pact.

In the ensuing years, the full implications of the pact unfolded. The pact was seen as being more beneficial to a minority of Muslim élites from the provinces of UP and Bihar rather than the Muslim majorities of Punjab and Bengal. Despite this glaring fact, the pact was regarded as a major milestone of the Indian Independence Movement as it saw two of the biggest political parties of the subcontinent set aside their differences and work towards a common goal.

## What Role did the Montagu - Chelmsford Reforms Play?

Secretary of State for India, Edwin Montagu and Viceroy Lord Chelmsford presented a report in July 1918 following a long fact-finding trip through India. Following another tour by Franchise and Functions Committee in order to identify who among the Indian population could vote in future elections, the Government of India Act of 1919 (also known as the Montagu–Chelmsford Reforms) was passed in December 1919.

The Act enlarged both the provincial and Imperial legislative councils, repealing the Government of India's recourse to the "official majority" in unfavourable votes. Departments such as defence, foreign affairs, and criminal law were retained by the Viceroy and the central government while other departments like public health, education, land-revenue, local self-government were transferred to the provinces.

The Montagu-Chelmsford reforms offered Indians the chance to exercise legislative power at the provincial level. Yet such power was also restricted by the still limited number of eligible voters, by the small budgets available to provincial legislatures.

The reforms were a step towards giving Indians a better scope of autonomy under British rule. But nationalists from every spectrum felt that it was not enough and that it failed to accommodate the power of the provincial Muslims where they were a majority. This inadequacy would only prove that any negotiation with the Congress would only be an exercise in futility for the Muslim League. This realisation made their calls for a separate homeland even stronger.

## What were the provisions of the Mountbatten Plan?

The division of British India between the two new dominions was carried out according to what has come to be known as the "Mountbatten Plan". It was announced at a press conference by Mountbatten on 3 June 1947, when the date of independence - 15 August 1947 - was also announced. The main details of the plan were as follows:

- Sikhs, Hindus and Muslims in Punjab and Bengal legislative assemblies would meet and vote for Partition. If a simple majority of either group wanted partition, then these provinces would be divided.
- The provinces of Sind and Balochistan were to make their own choice in deciding which dominion they wanted to be a part of.

- The future of the Northwest Frontier Province and Sylhet district of Assam was to be decided by a referendum.
- India would be independent by 15 August 1947.
- The separate independence of Bengal was ruled out.
- A boundary commission to be set up to draw up the borders.

The Indian leaders accepted the plan on 2 June. It did address the future of the princely states, but on 3 June, Mountbatten advised them that remaining independent will prove to be counter-productive and it would be more prudent to join either of the two dominions.

The Muslim League's demands for a separate state were thus accepted. The Congress' position on unity was also considered and taken into account with the objective of making the land area of Pakistan as small as possible. Mountbatten's formula was to divide India and to retain as much as unity as possible. With the passing of the Indian Independence Act, 1947, the dominion of Pakistan and India came to be on 14th and 15th August respectively. This event was marred by the bloodshed of the Partition that saw millions on both sides displaced, killed and missing.

## The Legacy of the Partition of India

The Partition was and continues to remain a highly controversial arrangement along with being a cause of much tension in the Indian subcontinent today. Lord Mountbatten has not only been accused of rushing the process but also is alleged to have influenced the Radcliffe Line in India's favour. The commission took longer to decide on a final boundary than on the Partition itself. Thus the two nations were granted their independence even before there was a defined boundary between them.

Some critics allege that British haste for a relatively bloodless exit led to increased cruelties during the Partition. Because independence was declared prior to the actual Partition, it was up to the new governments of India and Pakistan to keep public order. No large population movements were contemplated despite the plan called for safeguards for minorities on both sides of the new border. It was a task at which both states failed. There was a complete breakdown of law and order; many died in riots, massacre, or just from the hardships of their flight to safety. What ensued was one of the largest population movements in recorded history.

However, many argue that the British were forced to expedite the Partition by events on the ground. Once in office, Mountbatten quickly became aware that if Britain were to avoid involvement in a civil war, which seemed increasingly likely, there was no alternative to Partition and a hasty exit from India. Law and order had broken down many times before Partition, with much bloodshed on both sides. A massive civil war was looming by the time Mountbatten became Viceroy. After the Second World War, Britain had limited resources, perhaps insufficient to the task of keeping order. Another viewpoint is that while Mountbatten may have been too hasty, he had no real options left and achieved the best he could under difficult circumstances.

Conservative elements in England consider the Partition of India to be the moment that the British Empire ceased to be a world power, following Curzon's dictum: "the loss of India would mean that Britain drops straight away to a third rate power".

**Indian Independence Act 1947** was enacted by the British Parliament, and it divided India into two separate and independent nations, India and Pakistan. The ***Indian Independence Act 1947 was granted royal assent*** by the United Kingdom's Parliament on July 18th, 1947. And finally, on August 15th, 1947, India and Pakistan were divided into two separate sovereign nations.

The Indian Independence Act 1947 UPSC is broadly considered under the Indian Polity and Governance; however, it can also be a part of History. Questions from the 18 July 1947 Act are asked in both Prelims and Mains Exams. Candidates preparing for the upcoming exam must thoroughly prepare the topic.

### Indian Independence Act 1947

The **Indian Independence Act 1947** was enacted by the British Parliament, which ***got its royal assent on July 18, 1947***. By affirmation of royal assent, India gained independence. The act provided that the date August 15, 1947, would be the "'appointment date' under the [Government of India Act, 1935](#), and there would be two sovereign dominions, India and Pakistan. The constituent assembly of both the dominions was given the freedom and power to choose the power to frame and adopt any constitution.

The 18 July 1947 Act gave all the authority to the constituent assembly to repeal any of the acts made by the British Parliament, even the Indian Independence Act 1947. From August 15th, 1947, to January 26th, 1950, a drafting committee was formed to draft the Indian Constitution. The drafting committee worked directly under the then-law minister, Dr B.R. Ambedkar.

The committee prepared the draft of the [Constitution of India](#) after detailed deliberation and discussion on the existing system of administration. This draft received assent from the [President of India](#), Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

## History of Indian Independence Act 1947

On February 20, 1947, the then British Prime Minister, Clement Atlee, declared the Indian Independence Act 1947. Soon after the announcement of Clement Atlee, the Muslim League demanded the partition of the country for a separate nation for Muslims. Following this, the major events related to the India Independence Act 1947 are listed below:

- Regarding this, the British government, on June 3, 1947, clearly stated that any Constitution framed by the [Constituent Assembly of India](#) would not apply to the parts of the country that were not willing to accept it.
- On the very same day, on June 3, 1947, Lord Mountbatten, who was the [Viceroy of India](#), gave the plan of partition, which was popularly known as the [Mountbatten Plan](#). This plan implemented the [two-nation](#) theory of Syed Ahmad Khan.
- The Congress and Muslim League together agreed on this plan, and it was brought into action with immediate effect, thereby enacting the Indian Independence Act 1947.

## Features of Indian Independence Act 1947

Following are the **major features of the Indian Independence Act** that must be read comprehensively by every UPSC aspirant:

- The 18 July 1947 Act declared the end of British rule in India, and India was a sovereign state from August 15th, 1947.
- This act abolished the offices of the Viceroy and Governor-General, who were to be appointed by the British king for each Dominion. This is because, after this act, Britain was supposed to have no responsibility for the Government of India and the Government of Pakistan.
- Furthermore, the Indian Independence Act 1947 gave both dominions the freedom to choose the constitution for their respective nations and to oppose any laws enacted by the British government.



- It abolished the office of the Secretary of State for India, and his functions were transferred to the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs.
- All the Indian [princely states](#) were granted freedom to join either the Dominion of India or the Dominion of Pakistan or even choose to remain independent on their own.
- And also, the act removed the title of Emperor of India from the royal titles of the British Kingdom.

### Impact of the Indian Independence Act 1947

The Indian Independence Act 1947 was widely and happily accepted throughout the nation and by both parties, Congress and the Muslim League. The impact of this India independence act on a nationwide level is as follows:

- Lord Samuel, who was a British Liberal politician, also stated that the Indian Independence Act is a "peace treaty without war".
- The British and many great Indian leaders, like Dr Rajendra Prasad, also said that, with the end of British rule in India, the further relationship with the British would depend on goodwill and mutual understanding.
- On the one hand, a large number of people and leaders were happy as this law marked the beginning of free India. Still, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was not happy with the decision of the 2 Nation theory. He stated that August 14th might be a day for Muslims in Pakistan, but it was a day of mourning for the Hindus and the Sikhs.
- But above all of these likings and dislikings of leaders, the best thing to be acknowledged at that time was that, because of the Indian Independence Act 1947, India became their republic, the Dominion.

### Repeal of 18 July 1947 Act

The new Constitution did not give the leaders the legal power to repeal the laws. Still, it was done to break the chain of law to make the constitution an independent legal system.

- An interesting fact about repealing the Indian Independence Act 1947 is that the British Parliament did not contribute to the repeal process of this act.
- However, the law empowered both the provinces, India and Pakistan, to repeal any of the acts made by either themselves or the British Parliament.
- Finally, India and Pakistan repealed the Indian Independence Act 1947 by creating their own constitutions. ***Article 395 of the Indian Constitution effectively repealed the 18 July 1947 Act.***
- The best thing that could happen was that, with the adoption of the Constitution, India was no longer a Dominion. It became a republican country

***Government of India Act 1935 was passed by the British Parliament, marking the milestone toward a completely responsible Indian government.*** The 1935 Act was a detailed document that consisted of 321 sections and 10 schedules. It was the GOI Act 1935 that demolished the concept of dyarchy introduced by the Government of India Act 1919 and paved the formation of a Federation of India that would include the provinces of British India and princely states in some or all cases.

There were major four sources for the preparation for this Government of India Act 1935 which are the Simon Commission, the third round table conference, the joint select committees' report, and a white paper issued in 1933. The main aim of the Government of India Act was to make the establishment of federal states and mitigate dyarchy. The Government of India Act 1935 Notes have been compiled for the upcoming UPSC Exam as it is an important part of Modern History that comes under Paper 4 of the General Studies of UPSC Exam.

What is Government of India Act 1935?

In August 1935 the British Parliament passed the Government of India Act 1935 which at that time, was the longest act enacted by the parliament of Britain. Namely, the 1935 Government of India Act and the Government of Burma Act 1935 are two separate acts that were divided by it.

- The main aim of the Government of India Act 1935 was to make further provisions for the Indian Government which was finally repealed in India on 26th January 1950.
- The Government of India Act 1919 was ended by this Act.
- The major benefit was that the Government of India Act 1935 was the first to provide the provinces with autonomous status by giving them freedom from external or British interference.
- Another major benefit was that more voting rights were given to people this time than in the [Government of India Act 1919](#).

## Govt of India Act 1935 Highlights

Some of the important highlights of the Gov of India Act 1935 are mentioned below. The candidates preparing for the UPSC exam must be well acquainted with these points to get hold of the concept.

### **Government of India Act 1935**

Aim of the GOI Act 1935	To establish the Federation of India and end the dyarchy.
Territorial Extent of Act 1935	All Territories under direct British control
Enacted by	Parliament of United Kingdom
Royal Assent Date	24th July 1935
Commenced on	1st April 1937
Status of Govt of India Act 1935	Repealed on 26th January 1950 in India

### History of GOI Act 1935

For the self-government form to be imposed on India, the Government of India Act 1919 was insufficient and did not provide enough provisions. There was frustration among the Indian officials at that duration since they believed the area they were controlling officially was still in the hands of British officials.

- Therefore the [Simon Commission](#) was tasked with reviewing and amending this matter.
- There had been some criticism of the Simon Commission report, leading to the Round table conference in London where the Indian community representatives were consulted on this matter.
- However, this round table conference failed, as it could not meet its goal. The Round table conference issued a white paper in 1933 recommending a constitution of India to be drafted.
- The committee headed by Viceroy Linlithgow discussed the white paper's recommendations.
- The report prepared by the committee was published in 1934 and incorporated a bill of law. The British Parliament successfully passed this report and bill. Later on, this Act was enacted into law after it received the Royal Assent in 1935 as the government of India Act.

- Later on, Indian federalism was established by the Government Act 1935.

So it can be said that the Government Act of 1935 was prepared from 4 sources which were

- Simon Commission report
- Third round table conference discussions
- The white paper issued in 1933
- The joint select committees' report

### Objectives of Government of India Act 1935

The Govt of India Act 1935 abolished the dyarchy system imposed by the government of India Act 1900 and established the Federation of India, having provinces and princely states. Despite this, the Federation of India was not able to be formed since there were not a sufficient number of princely states.

The main motto behind the Act of 1935 was to establish an Indian Federation consisting of the governors and Chief commissioners of provinces of British India that joined voluntarily.

### Provisions of Government of India Act 1935

There were numerous important provisions that marked the Government of India Act 1935 such as the All India Federation, division of the subjects, provincial autonomy etc. All the provisions of the Gov of India Act 1935 have been discussed below

#### All India Federation

- Several British Indian provinces, as well as Indian states, joined together to form an All-India Federation. A state was eligible to be part of the Federation only under the conditions specified in the instrument of accession.
- Under the Government of India Act 1935, the states were absolutely free to connect with the Federation of India at their discretion.

- The act stipulates that India can become a federal country if half of its states agree to join it. But due to the lack of princely states joining the Federation of India the provisions regarding the Federation were not implemented.

#### Provincial Autonomy

- In addition to marking the beginning of provincial autonomy, the new act had one redeeming feature, which was that the provinces were free to act as autonomous administrative units in the spheres defined for them.
- In fact, the act required the provincial legislature to be formed on the advice of the Governor by the responsible government in each province.
- The duration of this program was very short as 1937 marked the beginning of it and in 1939 it was discontinued. As a result of the Act of 1935, the provinces do not have a truly responsible government.
- Despite ministerial control, the departments were not fully under the control of the ministers. There were a variety of overriding powers that were retained by the governors but a few of them were used.

#### Division of the Subject

- The Government of India Act 1935 revised the division of subjects and added some more subjects between the Centre and the Provinces.
- The subjects were categorised into three lists-
  - The federal list has 59 items.
  - The provincial list has 54 items.
  - The concurrent list has 36 items.
- The provincial legislature was solely responsible for the subjects on the Provincial List.

- As a result of the act, both federal and provincial legislature was empowered to enact legislation on certain topics, and in case of disagreement, the federal law would prevail.

#### Dyarchy at the Centre

The Government of India Act 1935 abolished the system of dyarchy, that was introduced by the GOI Act 1919, and introduced two types of federal subjects-

1. The Reserved Subject, where the subjects were to be administered by the Governor General.
2. The Transferred Subject, where the subjects were to be administered by the council of ministers, and the count of ministers in a council could not exceed 10.

#### Supremacy of the Parliament

- The Government of India Act 1935 was very rigid in nature as any Indian legislature, whether Federal or temporary, could not change or amend the 1935 Act.
- Changing any law under the Government of India Act 1935 was solely the responsibility of the British government.
- It won't be wrong to say that the British Parliament imposed the 1935 Act on India.

#### Bicameral Legislature

- To adjudicate disputes relating to federal matters, there was a provision for establishing a Federal Court under the Government of India Act 1935.
- Some other provisions of the Government of India Act 1935 are- provided to control the currency and credit of the country and established the Reserve Bank of India. There is also provision for establishing a Federal Public Service Commission, a Provincial Service Commission, and a Joint Public Service Commission.

## Features of Govt of India Act 1935

The Government of India Act 1935, the power was segregated among the centre and states in terms of three lists: federal, provincial, and concurrent. The residual powers were provided to the viceroy of India, but the concept of a Federation was not a success as the princely states did not associate with it. Following are the features of the Government of India Act 1935-

- This act demolished the dyarchy system in the states and presented provincial autonomy as a replacement for it. These provinces were provided with their own defined spheres and could act as autonomous administration units in them. Also, with this, the government became more responsible in the provinces as the Governor was mandated to act by taking advice from the ministers from the cabinet.
- This act introduced bicameralism in 6 provinces- Bengal, Bombay, Madras, Bihar, and Assam. These provinces were made bicameral and consisted of upper and lower houses.
- It provided separate electorates for some special classes like the Schedule Caste labour class and women to increase the principle of communal representation.
- It increases the voting rights of people by extending the franchise to 10% of the total population.
- To control the finances and monetary policy it, established the Reserve Bank of India.
- The Government of India Act 1935 established a provincial public service commission, joint Public Service Commission, and Federal Public Service Commission.
- In 1937 the Government of India Act 1935 established the federal code.
- Also, this act discarded the Council of India, which was made by the GOI Act 1858. However, the secretary of state of India was assisted by some advisors.



## Importance of 1935 Government of India Act

Act of 1935 curtails the power centralized with the Union Government and distributes it to the regional governments. There were separate electorates for the worker and women, that allowed them for their own representations. It was the first moment when the provinces were given the title of an autonomous state. Compared to the Government of India Act 1919, the Government of India Act 1935 provided more people with voting rights. The concept of the Public Service Commission (presently in Article 315) was adopted under the Indian Government Act 1935. In 1935, the GOI Act provided for the appointment of the governor.

## Failure of Government of India Act 1935

The Govt of India Act 1935 provides so many non-mandatory powers to the Governors and Governor-General. There was a fundamental flaw in the proposed formation of the federation. As a result, the legislation was unable to provide individuals with constitutional flexibility. The act did not provide a proper federal structure because most of the powers were withheld by the Governor-General. These points were majorly responsible for the failure of this act, and became an obstruction in the path to success.

# Cabinet Mission Plan 1946

## [UPSC Notes]

Cabinet Mission Plan was an important plan, sent by the then British Prime Minister, Clement Attlee. This plan aimed at transferring the power from the British Government to Indian Leaders. The mission was a failure due to many reasons. This topic is very important from the UPSC perspective. You can read the Cabinet Mission Plan UPSC notes given in this article to know more.

### Introduction to Cabinet Mission Plan 1946

1. The nationalist forces were succeeding in penetrating the untouched sections of the societies.
2. Constitutionalism had set its roots in the deeper areas and boosted the feeling of nationalism in the people firmly.
3. The demands for leniency towards the INA prisoners and RIN also revolted against the Britishers.
4. Gradually, the increasing mass movement created a fear of direct revolt and destruction against the rule. Hence, the government realized the necessity of suppressing the mass movement in time and building strong Indo-British relations, thereby giving independence.
5. In this thread, a cabinet mission was sent by Clement Attlee to devise machinery to draw up the constitution of an independent India.

### Cabinet Mission Plan 1946 Notes PDF

Cabinet Mission Plan was designed by British Prime Minister Clement Attlee. The Cabinet Mission reached India on 24 March 1946, with the vision to solve the tussle between the Congress party and the Muslim league. This tussle was over the issue of partition of India, and even after a comprehensive discussion, over this issue, no conclusion could be drawn. Later, Clement Alee came up with a midway solution and decided to hand over the governmental powers from the British Government to Indian leaders. There were three members of the Cabinet Mission-

Name of the Member	Designation
Pethick Lawrence	Secretary of State of India
A.V. Alexander	Lord of Admiralty

Stafford Cripps	President of Board of Trade,
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Here in this article, you will get the full detail about the Cabinet Mission Plan for the preparation for UPSC exams. You can also download the Cabinet Mission 1946 notes PDF from the link attached to read about this important topic from prelims and mains perspectives.

## Background of Cabinet Mission Plan 1946

1. As soon as independence was proclaimed, there was a strong tussle between the Congress and Muslim League.
2. The Indian National Congress and the Muslim league had a strong ideological difference among them concerning certain issues. The Congress party wanted to establish a strong center and the provinces to have minimal powers.
3. On the other hand, the Muslim league was constantly demanding the safeguarding of the rights of Muslims, which were then, the minority group in India.
4. To call this issue the mission came up in 1946 with a certain set of proposals which said that-

India will be granted independence as a complete dominion without any partition.
India will be divided into three sections- group A, group B, and group C.
The power of defense communications and foreign powers along with the currency will be kept by the central government and the rest of the other provinces will be provided with the other type of powers.
For the time being the new government was being established as per the constitution, and an interim government would be formed.

## Reasons for Failure of Cabinet Mission Plan 1946

There were many reasons behind the failure of the Cabinet Mission Plan.

1. The Congress party demanded the highest power in the center and wanted to vest the minimal powers to the provinces. Whereas the Muslim League was demanding to safeguard the rights of Muslims in general as well as in the legislatures, as Muslims were minorities at that time.
2. Then came the Cabinet Mission, with the set of proposals in 1946, which said-
  - India as a free state will be granted Independence without any partition.
  - The province of India will be divided into three sections-  
Group A: Madras, Central Provinces, UP, Bihar, Orissa, and Bombay.  
Group B: Punjab, Sindh, and Balochistan

Group C: Bengal and Assam.

- All the powers will be reserved with the government at the center-Delhi. This government can exercise the power on Defence, Foreign Affairs, Financial Affairs, and all other major decisions required to run the nation. The rest of the powers can be vested in the provinces and princely states.
- A constituent assembly is to be set up for making the constitution and by then an interim government can be formed until a full-fledged government is formed as per the constitution.

3. Where on one hand Muslim League was totally satisfied with the proposal and agreed to it, but the Congress party did not agree to the proposals at all. Instead, they were absolutely against the idea of dividing the country on the basis of religion and continued to demand a stronger power in the center.

4. Considering the points and the issues raised by the Congress party, another plan was prepared and proposed in the month of June. This plan said that

- The province can be partitioned according to the Hindu majority and Muslim majority Nation.
- The Princely States were provided with the choice of either joining the union or remaining as independent princely states.

5. The Congress party was working under the guidance of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and again denied the second proposal. However, they agreed to be a part of the constituent assembly.

6. In consideration of the action of the Congress party, the viceroy invited the names of 14 candidates to form the interim government. Congress chose five candidates from Congress, 5 from the League, and one member from Sikh, Parsi, Indian Christian, and scheduled caste communities.

7. The fact to be noticed here is that both the Muslim League and Congress were given the right to nominate their 5 members to take membership in the interim government. When Congress nominated Zakir Hussain, the Muslim League objected to the action stating that Indian Muslims can be represented by the League only. Hence the Muslim League did not participate in the formation of the interim government.

8. Nevertheless, the interim government was made and Jawaharlal Nehru continued to head the interim government. Also, the process of preparing the framework of the Constitution had started.

9. Congress formed the government in most of the provinces including the North-West Frontier Province and the League formed the government in Bengal and Sindh, but still were agitating against the government in the center.
10. The demand for Pakistan was increasing continuously, but with more adverse effects. This demand turned into extreme communal violence.
11. Finally, considering the then-present conditions, the party agreed to proceed and form a separate nation from India. The Partition of India became an inescapable reality to stop the deadly riots in the country.

Hence, Cabinet Mission Plan failed.

## Cabinet Mission UPSC

Cabinet Mission 1946 is indeed an important topic in Modern Indian History. Many questions have been asked from the Cabinet Mission Plan 1946 in UPSC Prelims and Mains. To solve the questions in exams, one must be fairly prepared about the topics of Modern Indian History.

## Cabinet Mission Plan 1946 UPSC Prelims-2015 Question

**Question:** With reference to the Cabinet Mission, which of the following statements is/ are correct?

1. It recommended a federal government.
2. It enlarged the powers of the Indian courts.
3. It provided for more Indians in the ICS.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 and 3
- c. 1 and 3
- d. None

**Answer:-** Option A(1 only).

# Cripps Mission 1942

## [UPSC Notes]

### What is Cripps Mission?

When the Second World War broke out in 1939, Britain declared India a party to the war as part of the British Empire. This led to a massive uproar, as Viceroy Lord Linlithgow, without consultation with Indians took this step. This major decision led to massive protests from the Congress Party, and as result party leaders, who were heading 7 provincial governments resigned from their posts. The Muslim League celebrated it as Deliverance Day. The background that led to the series of events concerning the Cripps Mission were:

- The Japanese army was at the border of India after Burma and Singapore. The loss of Burma to Japan was a big blow to the Britishers in the Second World War.
- The British were alarmed at the successive victories of Japan during the 1940s.
- There was a constant threat of Japanese invasion of India and the Indian support, both by military and the people was essential for Britain to win the war.
- Britain was facing pressure from the US and other allied powers over its imperial policies in India. To secure Indian cooperation for the Allied war efforts, the British government sent the Cripps to India. The Cripps Mission 1942 was headed by Stafford Cripps.

### Cripps Mission Members

The Cripps Mission 1942 was headed by Stafford Cripps, accompanied by Lord Privy Seal. There were other members from the State Council of Britain, including the leader of the House of Common, etc.

Though originally, the Cripps Mission was constituted by

- Stafford Cripps
- Pethick-Lawrence
- A.V. Alexander.

### Cripps Mission: Purpose

Post the Second World War, the Cripps Mission had several reasons to come to India. The main reasons were:

- Britain was pressurized by USA, USSR & China to seek India's cooperation.
- Britain wanted India's support as they suffered tremendous losses in Southeast Asia and Japan's threat to invade India seemed real to them.

### Cripps Proposal



The proposal of the Cripps Mission 1942 was "India would be a dominion associated with the United Kingdom". The Cripps Mission, through the proposal, promised that immediately after the war stopped, steps would be taken to set up an elected body charged with the task of making the Indian Constitution and provisions would be made in such a way that the Indian states could participate in the framing of the Constitution of India.

The main Cripps Proposal were:

- During the war, the British would retain their hold on India and once the war finished, India would be granted dominion status with complete autonomy.
- The dominion of India would have the freedom to remain with the British Commonwealth or to secede from it. It would also be at liberty to take part in international organizations.
- At the end of the war, a Constituent Assembly would be set up that would frame the Constitution of India. The members of the assembly were to be elected based on proportional representation by the provincial assemblies. Any province unwilling to join the Indian dominion could form a separate union and have a separate constitution. The British government would also invite them to join the commonwealth.
- The Princely States would also be given representation in the Constituent Assembly.
- The transfer of power and the rights of minorities would be safeguarded by negotiations between the Constituent Assembly and the British government.
- During the war, an interim government comprising different parties of India would be constituted. India's defense and external affairs would be controlled by the British (Viceroy).

## Significance of Cripps Mission 1942

The Cripps Mission 1942 was sent to India to achieve Hindu-Muslim consensus on some constitutional arrangements and to convince the Indians to postpone their freedom struggle till the end of the Second World War. The major significance of the Cripps Mission were:

- The British government, for the first time, acknowledged India's right to be a dominion.
- The dominion of India had the liberty to frame its own Constitution.
- The proposal of giving freedom to the provinces under the Cripps Mission to be a separate union turned out to be a major reason for the partition in 1947.
- In the interim period, Indians were guaranteed a good share in the administration. The right to cede from the Commonwealth indicated full sovereignty at a later stage.

## Rejection of Cripps Mission

The meetings, known as the Cripps Mission, took place in Delhi from March 22 to April 12, 1942, and marked an attempt to rally, the rival Indian National Congress and Muslim League. The Congress and Muslim League, both objected to the Cripps Mission of 1942 because

### Congress's reaction to Cripps Mission

- The Cripps Mission proposed representation of the princely states by nominees and not by elected representatives.
- It offered the dominion status to India, instead of a provision for complete independence.
- The principle of national unity was kept at stake as the Cripps Mission gave the right to provinces to secede according to their will.
- There was an absence of any plan for immediate transfer of power and an absence of any real share in defense.

- The supremacy of the Governor-General's power was retained, along with the demand that the Governor-General be only the constitutional head was not accepted.

## Muslim League reaction to Cripps Mission

- They were against the idea of a single Indian Union and thus criticized it.
- The Muslim League was of the opinion that the Cripps Mission denied the Muslims the right to self-determination and the creation of Pakistan.
- They protested against the method for the Constituent Assembly's creation and also against the procedure to decide on the provinces' accession to the Indian union.

## Failure of Cripps Mission

The main reasons for the failure of Cripps mission include:

- The proposals were seen as too radical by the British and as too conservative by the INC who wanted complete independence. Thus, the Cripps Mission was unanimously rejected by the INC, the Muslim League, and other Indian groups.
- Cripps, in the Cripps Mission had talked of 'cabinet' and 'national government, but later stepped back stating that he had only meant an expansion of the executive council.
- The Hindu Mahasabha and the Liberals were against the right of states to secede.
- There was no clear demarcation as to who would implement and interpret the treaty affecting the transfer of power.
- The procedure of accession was not well-defined. The decision on secession was to be taken by a resolution in the legislature by a 60 percent majority.
  - If less than 60 percent of members supported it, the decision was to be taken by a plebiscite of adult males of that province by a simple majority.
  - This scheme weighed against the Hindus in Punjab and Bengal if they wanted accession to the Indian Union.
- It is also believed that the mission failed because of a clear lack of support for it by the Viceroy Linlithgow, British PM Winston Churchill, and the Secretary of State for India, Leo Amery.

Frustrated with the failure of the Cripps Mission, Stafford Cripps returned back. Gandhi, backed by the Congress seized the opportunity and called for voluntary British withdrawal from India, which resulted in the Quit India Movement.



In his famous Gandhi Irwin proclamation Viceroy, Lord Irwin promised a **round table conference** following the delivery of Simon Commission reports. In order to protest against the reports submitted by Simon Commission, Mahatma Gandhi called for the civil disobedience movement in 1925. This was the time when Mahatma Gandhi called for the movement, and simultaneously, Bhagat Singh planned a bomb blast in Meerut. Congress agreed to refrain from the conference, start a civil disobedience movement, and set for Purna Swaraj, aka round table conferences for complete Independence as its ultimate aim in the Lahore session in December 1929 under the guidance of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who was president at that time.

***There was a total of three round table conferences - first, second, and third.*** The round table conference UPSC topic is part of modern Indian history in the IAS syllabus and a significant part of Indian history. Read this article till the end to get a detailed account of all three conferences held between India and the British government.

What is Round Table Conference?

***Round table conference is actually a series of conferences held between the British government and Indian political personalities to maintain peace in the country*** and bring out constitutional reforms in India. In Indian history, the British administration convened the Round table conference in three sessions between 1930 and 1932 to discuss the potential future of the [Indian Constitution](#). The meeting was a product of the Simon commission's assessment of the [Government of India Act 1919](#), which was started in 1927 and whose report was released in 1930. The meeting took place in London.

Round Table Conference Dates

The **round table conference dates** for the first, second, and third meetings are as follows:

- The first Round table conference was held between November 12, 1930, to January 19, 1931.

- The 2nd round table was held between September to December 1931.
- And the 3rd round table conference was held between November 17 to December 24, 1932.

## History of Round Table Conference

A total of three round table conferences have been held altogether. The Indian National Council did not attend the first and last conferences. In fact, during the conference, there was a movement going on in India named [Civil Disobedience Movement](#).

- Demands for India to be given Dominion status were growing in some sectors of the British political system.
- The flamboyant Mahatma Gandhi was super-heading the fight for Purna Swaraj while the Liberation Movement in India was in full swing.
- The foundation of the discussions was the advice given by Mohammad Ali Jinnah and Simon Commission report to Lord Irwin, who was the [viceroy of India](#) at that time and Ramsay McDonald who was the British [Prime Minister](#) at that time.
- For the very first time, the Indians and British interacted as equals. The inaugural round table conference started on 12th November 1930. Although Congress and other notable business figures declined to attend the meeting, numerous other Indian organizations were present at it.

## First Round Table Conference

The British administration held three round table conferences to consider constitutional changes in India between 1930 to 1932, the first of which was held in 1930. The 1930 report of the [Simon Commission](#) was followed during these conferences.

The [first Round table conference](#) was formally launched by British king George V on 12th November 1930 in London at the House of Lords under

the leadership of Ramsay McDonald, who was the prime minister of the country at that time.

## Second Round Table Conference

Congress abstained from the first Round table conference, which was not successful at all. The [Gandhi-Irwin pact](#), which was reached between Viceroy Lord Irwin and Mahatma Gandhi in response to some requests, led the Congress to the **second round table conference**. The meeting of the 2nd round table commenced on 7th September 1931. During this period, McDonald was heading a coalition political alliance with a majority and appointing Samuel Hoare as the Secretary Head of India.

On November 7, 1931, Mahatma Gandhi and McDonald had a meeting in which the [Government of India Act 1935](#) was enacted as a result. There were many differences between the first and second round table conference on the grounds of representation of the [Indian National Congress](#), the Government of Britain, the finances, etc.

## Participants of Second Round Table Conference

As compared to the first conference, the second round table conference was attended by some intellectual and political leaders along with Indian National Congress.

- The British Prime Minister Ramsay McDonald along with other heads of other political parties joined the conference.
- Maharajas and rulers of many [princely states](#) were part of the second round table conference.
- There were many representatives of the British Indian group. However, the Indian National Congress was completely represented by Mahatma Gandhi.
- Many specific community representatives also joined the conference, like Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Mohammed Iqbal, and Mohammad Zafarullah Khan was the Muslim representative at the 2nd Round Table Conference.

- Deewan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath, B.S. Moonje per Hindu representatives.
- Bhim Rao Ambedkar was the representative of the depressed classes.
- Sarojini Naidu and Radhabai Subramanian were the women representatives, and many Indian Christian justice parties and Anglo-Indian Sindh industries were the liberal representatives at the second round table conference.

### Outcome of Second Round Table Conference

The ***second round table conference could not produce any meaningful conclusions*** about the constitution of India because there was no consensus between the diverse delegate groups. The administration also refused to give into the fundamental demand for freedom made by Indians.

- The second round table conference got underway on 7 September 1931. The Indian National Congress was present at the conference, which significantly differed from the first.
- Another distinction was that, Unlike the last conference, the British Prime Minister McDonald was in charge of our national administration rather than a labour one. In Britain, the labour party had been overthrown to weights earlier than the conference was held.
- By creating distinct electorates for the minority population, the British decided to provide a communal prize for representing minorities in India which was highly opposed by Mahatma Gandhi.
- On the contrary, Bhimrao Ambedkar was quite in favour of this decision therefore, Bhimrao Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi had two different opinions on the need for separate electorates for the underprivileged section of the concept of separating untouchables from the Hindu society.

## Third Round Table Conference

The third round table conference was the final one. It took place on November 17, 1932. The Indian National Congress chose to skip the convention due to their dissatisfaction. The British Labour Party and INC both declined to attend the summit.

***Only 46 persons from the summit remained, and several prominent political figures were absent.*** From September 1931 through March 1933, it took place. This suggested several changes to the 1935 Government of India Act. Sir Samuel Hoare oversaw the completion of all of these tasks.

## Participants of Third Round Table Conference

The number of participants in the third round table conference was comparatively lower than in the 2nd conference.

- Only 46 delegates attended the third round table conference since the majority of political leaders could not turn up for the meeting.
- The British labour party declined to participate in the conference, and this time Indian National Congress was not invited to the conference.
- The representative of British Indians in the 3rd conference was Aga Khan 3.
- Again, the depressed class was represented by Bhimrao Ambedkar, and this time Begum Jahanara was the representative of women, whereas the representatives of liberal delegates were the same as in the second conference.

## Outcome of Third Round Table Conference

The outcome of the 3rd round table conference was also not game-changing. Some of the recommendations were made in the third conference, which was published in a white paper in 1933, on the basis of which the government of India Act 1935 was passed.

- Nothing significant was addressed at the round table meeting because most of the Important political leaders and rulers of princely states were not present in the third round table conference.
- The suggestions and recommendations made at this conference were written down and considered by the British [Parliament](#).
- After deeply analysing the report submitted in the white paper, the Government of Britain decided to pass the Government of India Act 1935

The ***first round table conference took place in London from November 1930 to January 1931***. During the early 1930s, the Labour Party-led British government held a series of three round table conferences to discuss and implement constitutional reforms in British India. The participants of the first round table conference comprised representatives of native princely states, and British Indian political leaders, delegates from major political parties of the UK. Various issues were discussed during the first round table conference related to the federal government and the constitution of the province.

Though the first round table conference proved to be a failure as Congress continued with the civil disobedience movement, it forms an integral part of Indian history. This article will assist the candidates in gaining insight and a deeper understanding of the topic. The aspirants preparing for the IAS exam can get complete knowledge of the first round table conference by downloading the PDF.

### What was First Round Table Conference?

The round table conferences were held in order to devise reforms in the constitution. It took place in London from November 1930 to January 1931. There were varied participants in the round table conferences who belonged to the native princely states.

The Congress leaders boycotted the conference. The British delegates, representatives from native princely states, and representatives from United Kingdom were a part of the first round table conference as established for altering and modifying the Constitution. Numerous issues were discussed in the conferences, such as the perspective of the All India Federation. Dr. B.R Ambedkar also presented the idea of having separate electorates for the untouchables.

### Background of First Round Table Conference

There were numerous reasons that led to the first round table conference and meeting of the Britishers and Indians. Check here the points that will take you through the history of the first round table conference.

1. An increase in the number of members of the **British polity put forth the demand for India to be granted dominion status.**
2. In India, the freedom movement was leading further, with the principles and ideology of Gandhi for swaraj or self-rule.
3. The conferences were in accordance with Muhammad Ali Jinnah's request to the Viceroy of India Lord Irwin and British Prime Minister James Ramsay MacDonald and the Simon Commission report.
4. The 1930 round table conference is remarked to be bringing the Indians and Britishers the status of being equals for the first time in history. The inaugural conference embarked on 12th November.

### Participants of First Round Table Conference

The [Indian National Congress](#) had chosen to boycott the meeting. Numerous **INC leaders were in jail due to taking part in the civil disobedience movement.** Check here the list of the participants of the first round table conference.

1. 58 British Indian political leaders.
2. 16 representatives who were representing the native princely states.
3. 16 delegates related to the three major political parties established in the United Kingdom.
4. Government of India representatives were among the British Indians who participated in the first round table conference.

### Issues Discussed in First Round Table Conference

Several issues were discussed in the first round table conference such as the notion of an All-India Federation. The Muslim League assented to this idea. The princely states favor it till the time their internal sovereignty was enshrined. Take a look at the points illustrated here for gaining knowledge of the other issues that were discussed in the first round table conference.

- Federal government
- The constitution of the province



- Minorities Defence Services in the NWFP services and Sindh
- The Franchise Executive's Legislative Responsibilities
- Dr B.R. Ambedkar brought forth separate electorates for the 'untouchables'

## Effects of First Round Table Conference

The First Round Table Conference was conducted on January 19th 1931. The conference agreed on the major reform principles that were discussed. Some of the laws were executed. But, after the discussions as well the civil disobedience movement was continued by Congress. The importance of the Congress party in the decision-making was acknowledged and realized by the British government.

## First Round Table Conference- Outcomes

Eight plenary sessions were conducted along with one final closing session at this Conference. The planned federal structure of India included concerns pertaining to defence, concerns pertaining to Sindh, and NWFP. It also discussed the defense-related concerns of Burma and minority issues were all considered. However, the absence of the Indian National Congress in the 1930 round table conference brought negligible results.

## All India Federation

Tej Bahadur Sapru brought forth the All-India Federation during the First Round Table Conference. The majority of the parties along with the princely states assented to the idea till the point their domestic authority is not getting vulnerable. The Muslim League was also in favor of this plan. The British wanted to establish a representative government in India at the provincial level in India, but they agreed later not to establish representative government.

## Demand for Separate Electorate by Dr B.R. Ambedkar

Dr B.R Ambedkar brought forth the demand for the Untouchables to be provided electorates. The first round table conference assented to the idea. They also suggested that the Muslims, Christians, Sikhs and

Suppressed Classes, Anglo-Indians, and Europeans should also be represented.

- The First Round Table Conference frames out to be an integral and eminent part of Indian history.
- The failure of the Conference made them realize how things can be handled better. After the First round table conference failed, numerous leaders of the Indian Liberal Party, specifically the pro-British members like C. Y. Chintamani, Srinivasa Sastri, Tej Bahadur Sapru, requested Gandhi to meet with the Viceroy.
- The meeting between Gandhi and Irwin had been planned. To create a favorable situation, many congress leaders were released.